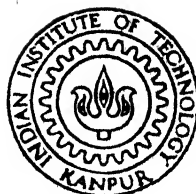


# ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE STUDIES OF $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , $\text{VO}^{2+}$ AND $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ IN SINGLE CRYSTALS

By  
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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR  
DECEMBER 1977

# **ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE STUDIES OF $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , $\text{VO}^{2+}$ AND $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ IN SINGLE CRYSTALS**

*A Thesis Submitted*  
In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

By  
AZAM ALI ANSARI

to the

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR  
DECEMBER 1977

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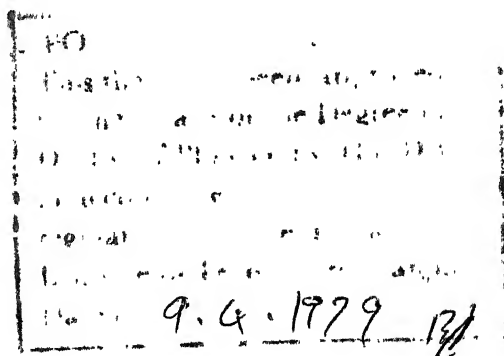
25 SEP 1979

Certificate

This is to certify that the work presented in this thesis is the original work of Mr. A.A. Ansari done under our joint supervision, and it is not submitted elsewhere for a degree.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Professor P. Venkateswarlu for exposing me to the field of spectroscopy, his kind guidance and his interest without which the present work would have been impossible. I am equally grateful to Professor D. Ramachandra Rao for his keen interest and help at various stages of this work. I am highly thankful to Dr. M. D. Sastry for his help in taking EPR spectra and for fruitful discussion.

My thanks are due to Dr. Ramanaiiah, Head, Radiochemistry Division, BARC, Bombay who has kindly given permission to use EPR spectrometer of Radiochemistry Division, for this work.

I am thankful to Dr. N. A. Narasimham, Head, Spectroscopy Division, BARC, for getting spectrographic analysis of impurity ions  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  in the sample  $\text{KDP:VO}^{2+}$  single crystal system.

I am highly thankful to Professor A. M. Khusro, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh Professor M.Y. Ansari, Principal, Z.H. College of Engg. and Tech., Aligarh Muslim University and Professor T. H. Naqvi, Head, Physics Section of Z. H. College of Engg. and Tech., Aligarh Muslim University for granting me

an extension in the study leave under QIP Programme to about one and a half years.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. S. D. Pandey, Dr. G. C. Upreti and Dr. U.V. Kumar for fruitful discussion and to Dr. S. C. Sen, and Dr. H. D. Bist for the interest in this work and specific and timely help from Dr. V. K. Jain for help in the final organization of the thesis.

I am thankful to Mr. Nathai Ram Yadav for his help in identifying crystal axes by x-ray technique and to the staff, Physics Workshop, Central Workshop, Glass Blowing, Precision Workshop and electrooptics laboratory for their help.

I can not forget to thank my colleagues Dr. K.S. Ramasastry, Dr. Raghubar Dayal, Mr. A.K. Jain, Dr. R.S. Saraswat, Mr. D. Narayana Rao, Mr. Radha Krishna Murthy, Dr. M.S. Ansari, Dr. N.C. Vizia, Dr. Bansi Lal from Physics Department and Mr. S. Barel, Dr. P.N. Shukla, Dr. J. G. Mahanty, Dr. A.N. Singh and others from Chemistry Department for their help and useful discussion.

I thank Miss C. Komala for neat typing of the manuscript and Mr. L. S. Rathaur for running the stencils.

Finally, the financial assistance received from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi and the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, is thankfully acknowledged.

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## , PREFACE

The electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) technique has proved to be a powerful tool to study the magnetism at microscopic level and yields useful information about the interactions that effect the magnetic state of matter. The site symmetry of impurity ions in the host lattice and its associated lattice defects, symmetry and strength of crystal field at the site of magnetic ion are some of the studies undertaken in solids using EPR techniques. This thesis describes the result of investigations on EPR of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4:\text{VO}^{2+}$  and  $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{Cr}^{3+}$ .

The Chapter 1 deals with a brief introduction to the phenomenon of electron paramagnetic resonance and its application to a variety of physical and chemical problems. Some of the special features of EPR spectra has also been given.

The Chapter 2 describes the basic theory of EPR and other details required for the analysis of the systems studied.

The Chapter 3 describes the EPR study of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion in diammonium oxalate monohydrate single crystals. Two magnetically different otherwise, similar centres (related by screw diads) are found corresponding to the ammonium ion sites in the unit cell. The Z-axes of two

centres are found in the ab plane of crystal lattice. The angular separation between two Z-axes is found to be  $60^\circ$ . The EPR study indicates that an  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion substitutes  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion and gets associated with a vacancy at the first neighbour  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion sites in the ab plane.

The Chapter 4 deals with the EPR study of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion in the single crystals of potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate. This study revealed the stabilization of two types of vanadium complexes in  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  lattice. The predominant complex, in terms of large intensity, is attributed to  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion entering interstitially and complexing with four oxygens belonging to four neighbouring phosphate groups, to form a nearly square pyramidal complex such as one found in vanadyl acetyl acetone. The absence of any proton structure suggests that the removal of hydrogen cation is the mode of charge compensation. There seems to be magnetically four inequivalent but symmetry related positions for the formation of such a complex. Four pairs of Z-axes of formation of these complexes lie in the ac plane making  $20^\circ$  with c-axis. All these centres become equivalent along c-axis. Apart from this the EPR study reveals the ordered intercrystallization of  $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$  complex in  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  lattice.

The Chapter 5 describes the EPR study of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  doped thallium alum single crystals. The impurity ion seems to have replaced  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ions in the host lattice of alum. Four directionally different, otherwise, similar magnetic centres were observed. The crystal field about  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in other alkali alums together with the present work indicates that the size of monovalent cations probably affect the atoms at trigonal sites and this seems responsible for the trigonal distortion of crystal field at the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion site in the lattice.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) discovered by Zavoisky in 1944, is the phenomenon of resonant absorption of microwave radiation among the Zeeman components of the electronic ground state of a paramagnetic species. This technique gives precise information about the magnetism of the electronic ground state of a system, the only requirement being that the system under study should be paramagnetic. Paramagnetism occurs wherever a system of charges has a resultant non-zero angular momentum. Therefore, when one tries to understand the magnetism of a system at the microscopic level, he ends up with studying the properties of angular momentum, both of spin and orbit, in the electronic ground state. This in turn gives valuable information regarding the way a paramagnetic ion interacts with its surroundings. Transition metal ions and rare earth ions, because of their incomplete d and f electron shells respectively, are good candidates for these studies and have been the subject of a number of very fruitful investigations.

The principle of EPR in its simplest form is as follows. Consider a free atom having orbital and

spin angular momenta  $\vec{L}$  and  $\vec{S}$  respectively resulting in a total electronic angular momentum  $\vec{J} = \vec{L} + \vec{S}$ . The magnetic dipole moment associated with the atom is  $\vec{\mu} = g\beta\vec{J}$  where  $\beta$  is the Bohr magneton and  $g$  is Lande's factor given by the expression

$$g = 1 + \frac{J(J+1) + S(S+1) - L(L+1)}{2J(J+1)}$$

under L-S coupling. In the presence of a magnetic field of strength inadequate to decouple the orbital angular momentum from the spin, the atom may possess any of the discrete set of energies  $E$  given by  $E = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{H}$

$$\text{or } E = -g\beta M_J H$$

where  $M_J$ 's are magnetic quantum numbers having integral values from  $-J$  to  $+J$ . The splitting of the energy levels is determined by Lande's  $g$ -factor, the separation between two consecutive states being equal to  $g\beta H$ . If the system is subjected to a microwave radiation field of frequency  $\nu$  such that  $h\nu = g\beta H$ , an absorption of energy will take place following the selection rule  $\Delta M_J = \pm 1$ .

When the paramagnetic ion is doped in a crystal lattice, the paramagnetic resonance spectrum would be different from that of the free ion. In solids,

there are strong interactions between the paramagnetic ion and its immediate diamagnetic neighbours, and the orbital angular momentum gets partially or fully quenched. In such a situation the spectroscopic splitting factor  $g$  need not be isotropic. This is because part of the magnetic moment arising from the orbital motion of the electrons is modified by the crystalline electric field and the magnitude of the orbital contribution to the  $g$ -value is usually different in different directions and shows an angular variation which follows the symmetry of the crystal field. The total  $g$ -value (spin plus orbit) may then be anisotropic by an amount that depends on the magnitude of the orbital contribution to the magnetic moment and on the asymmetry in the crystal field. For all the cases, an anisotropic  $g$ -value can be represented by three principal values,  $g_x$ ,  $g_y$  and  $g_z$  in a principal axis system i.e., in which  $g_{xy} = g_{yz} = g_{zx} = 0$ .

In a direction having the direction cosines  $(l, m, n)$  with respect to  $x, y, z$  axes, the  $g$ -value is given by

$$g = (l^2 g_x^2 + m^2 g_y^2 + n^2 g_z^2)^{1/2}$$

When once the resonance condition viz.,  $h\nu = g\beta H$  is achieved there are other factors which control the continuous absorption of energy by the magnetic system. The population in the Zeeman components obeys Boltzmann distribution, and at any given temperature the lower level will be more populated than the upper one. When the resonance absorption occurs there will be a tendency to equalise the populations, and unless there are mechanisms which maintain the population difference continuously, paramagnetic resonance absorption ceases to be significant. Such mechanisms are called relaxation processes in which lattice plays a significant role. It acts like a huge reservoir with which the magnetic system changes energy with a characteristic time, usually represented as  $T_1$ , called Spin-Lattice relaxation time. This is a characteristic of a given magnetic ion in a lattice at a particular temperature and normally it increases with decrease of temperature.

The spin-lattice relaxation time contributes to the width of an EPR line. Another frequent cause of line broadening occurs due to high concentration of paramagnetic ions in solids. This arises due to dipole-dipole interaction and it can be considerably reduced by diluting a paramagnetic salt with an isomorphous diamagnetic substance.



## EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATION OF EPR

The manifestation of magnetic resonance absorption is normally observed by detecting the magnetization of the spin system due to the alternating magnetic field  $H_1(t)$ . There will be two components of that magnetization, usually represented by the corresponding susceptibility  $\chi$ , one in phase with  $H_1(t)$ :  $\chi'$ , and the other  $90^\circ$  out of phase with  $H_1(t)$ :  $\chi''$ .  $\chi'$  and  $\chi''$  are related by Kramers-Kronig equations and they give dispersion and absorption of energy by the spin-system respectively. The experimentally observed quantity in the absorption mode is  $d\chi''/dH$  as a function of  $H$ . In the present investigations, a Varian EPR spectrometer V-4502, operating at X-band frequencies (9-10 GHz) has been used.

## SPECIAL FEATURES OF EPR SPECTRA

### a. Fine Structure

In paramagnetic systems, which form part of a solid or a complex, where the ground state is an orbital singlet with spin multiplicity greater than two (i.e.,  $S \geq 1$ ) very often there are initial splittings of the ground state multiplet even in the absence of magnetic field. The most important cause of these splittings is the Stark effect resulting from asymmetrical crystalline fields together with the spin-orbit interaction which mixes the

ground state with the excited state. Whenever, there are zero field splittings of the ground state multiplet, the Zeeman components cease to be equally spaced and all the resonant transition ( $\Delta M_S = \pm 1$ ) do not occur at the same energy and there will be 2S well separated transitions. This is called the 'fine structure' of the paramagnetic resonance spectrum. The fine structure separations give valuable quantitative information about the crystal field interactions and will be discussed in detail in the next chapter.

#### b. Hyperfine Structure

Whenever the nucleus of a paramagnetic ion has spin I, there will be a magnetic interaction of the type  $\vec{I} \cdot \vec{A} \cdot \vec{S}$  between the electron and the nucleus and each fine structure energy level splits into  $(2I + 1)$  levels. The r.f. field which causes electronic 'spin-flip' does not cause simultaneous nuclear spin transitions in the first order. The selection rules therefore are

$$\Delta M_S = \pm 1, \quad \Delta M_I = 0$$

#### c. Super-Hyperfine Structure

This results from hyperfine interaction between the metal electron and the neighbouring ligands and nuclei. This gives quantitative information about

the delocalization of electron over the ligands. This is among the most elegant contributions of EPR towards understanding the nature of chemical bond.

Over the last two decades, EPR has been most successfully used for a variety of problems in physics and chemistry evolving from technique-oriented to problem-oriented research. EPR together with optical and thermal studies contributed substantially towards a clearer understanding of formation and structure of colour centres in solids. Its most recent contribution to the medical sciences is the identification of a malignant tumour which may at a future date, lead to a clearer understanding of the cause of cancer. A electron paramagnetic resonance of 3d transition metal ions has been quite well understood and therefore these ions serve as excellent candidates to probe the crystal fields. Among 3d transition ions  $V^{4+}(3d^1)$ ,  $Cr^{3+}(3d^3)$ ,  $Mn^{2+}(3d^5)$  and  $Cu^{2+}(3d^9)$  can be most effectively used as their EPR can be observed over a wide temperature range including room temperature. The present study deals with the study of  $KH_2PO_4$  using  $VO^{2+}$  as probe,  $(NH_4)_2C_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$  using  $Mn^{2+}$  as a probe and  $TlAl(SO_4)_2 \cdot 12H_2O$  using  $Cr^{3+}$  as a probe. The study on  $VO^{2+}:KH_2PO_4$  revealed for the first time about the functioning of  $KH_2PO_4$  lattice in helping the stabilization of certain  $VO^{2+}$

complexes. The work on  $(\text{Cr}_2)_2 \text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  is the first investigation of this lattice using paramagnetic ions as probes. The work on  $\text{Cr}^{5+}:\text{KAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  has been taken up as a part of the work done earlier in this laboratory to understand the effect of transition impurities on the different structural modification of alums.

Further details regarding the subject can be obtained from a list of general references given at the end of this chapter.

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## CHAPTER 2

### THEORY

#### ABSTRACT

General Hamiltonian for a paramagnetic ion in a crystalline field is described. Crystal-field splitting of the ground state of the paramagnetic ion has been elaborated taking the example of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in a crystalline field of octahedral symmetry. The effect of spin-orbit coupling on the g-factor is described. A short description of the spin Hamiltonian is given. A brief summary of the mechanism of zero field splitting of an S-state ion in the host lattice is described. An anomalous hyperfine splitting of S-state ion is explained.

The Hamiltonian for a paramagnetic ion in a solid may be expressed<sup>1</sup> as

$$\mathcal{H} = H_E + H_{LS} + H_{SI} + H_Q + H_V + H_{SH} + H_{IH} \quad (2.1)$$

The terms occurring in the above expression have the following meanings.

1.  $H_E$  stands for the sum total of the kinetic energy of electrons, their potential energy in the nuclear field and electrostatic potential energy due to electron repulsion. Mathematically it can be expressed as below:

$$H_E = \sum_i \left( \frac{p_i^2}{2m} - \frac{Ze^2}{r_i} \right) + \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^2}{r_{ij}} \quad (2.2)$$

Here  $p_i$  represents the magnitude of linear momentum of  $i$ th electron of mass  $m$  and charge  $e$ ,  $r_i$ , the distance of the electron  $i$  from the nucleus of atomic number  $Z$ , and  $r_{ij}$ , the distance between electrons  $i$  and  $j$ . The contribution to the energy from this term is of the order of  $10^5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

2. The term  $H_{LS}$  gives the spin-orbit coupling and it can be written as

$$H_{LS} = \sum_{i,j} \lambda_{i,j} \ell_i \cdot s_j \quad (2.3)$$

where  $\mathbf{l}_i$  and  $\mathbf{s}_j$  represent orbital and spin angular momenta of electron  $i$  and electron  $j$  respectively. The above expression can, however, be expressed in a simple form

$$H_{LS} = \lambda \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} \quad \text{where } L = \sum_i \mathbf{l}_i$$

and  $S = \sum_j \mathbf{s}_j$ , of free ion so long as we consider only terms derived from the ground state defined by equation (2.2). The interaction energy is generally of the order of  $10^2$  to  $10^3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

3.  $H_{SI}$  represents the interaction of electronic spin ( $S$ ) and nuclear spin ( $I$ ) which can be expressed as  $\vec{S} \cdot \vec{A} \cdot \vec{I}$ . The tensor  $A$ , known as hyperfine interaction tensor, may be isotropic or anisotropic. The isotropic hyperfine interaction is attributed to Fermi contact which has non-vanishing contribution for electronic wave function having a finite value at the nucleus. The expression of this interaction is given by

$$\frac{8\pi}{3} g_N g_e \mu_B \mu_N |\psi(0)|^2, \quad .$$

where  $\psi(0)$  is the wave function at the nucleus and suffix  $N$  refers to the nucleus. The anisotropic contribution to the hyperfine interaction arises due to spin-spin interaction. If  $\mu_N$  and  $\mu_e$  represent the magnetic



dipole moments corresponding to the nuclear and electronic angular momenta respectively, the classical expression for the dipole interaction energy is given by

$$V_N = \frac{\vec{\mu}_e \cdot \vec{\mu}_I}{r^3} - \frac{3(\vec{\mu}_e \cdot \vec{r})(\vec{\mu}_I \cdot \vec{r})}{r^5} \quad (2.4)$$

For a quantum mechanical system, the magnetic moment must be replaced by the corresponding operator.

Thus

$$H_{\text{dip}} = -g\mu_N\beta_N \left[ \frac{\vec{S} \cdot \vec{I}}{r^3} - \frac{3(\vec{S} \cdot \vec{r})(\vec{I} \cdot \vec{r})}{r^5} \right] \quad (2.5)$$

The total hyperfine interaction energy (isotropic and anisotropic) can be written as  $\vec{S} \cdot \underline{A} \cdot \vec{I}$  where  $\underline{A} = A_0 \underline{1} + A'$ , where  $\underline{1}$  is the unit tensor. This interaction gives rise to hyperfine levels. The separation of hyperfine levels is of the order of  $10^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

4.  $H_Q$  stands for nuclear quadrupole interaction and it can be written as  $\vec{I} \cdot \underline{Q} \cdot \vec{I}$ . The components of quadrupole tensor  $Q_{ij}$  are proportional to second order derivative components  $V_{ij} = \partial^2 V / \partial x_i \partial x_j$  of electrostatic potential  $V$ . In the principal axis system  $Q''$  may be expressed as

$$Q = \frac{eQ}{2I(I-1)} \begin{bmatrix} V_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & V_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & V_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.6)$$

The quadrupole interaction energy for axial symmetry is given by

$$\vec{I} \cdot \vec{Q} \cdot \vec{I} = \frac{eQV_{zz}}{4I(I-1)} [3M_I^2 - I(I+1)] \quad (2.7)$$

This interaction term shifts the hyperfine level by a small amount  $10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

5.  $H_V$  term describes the crystal field interaction and may be represented by

$$H_V = \sum_i e_i V(r_i) \quad (2.3)$$

where  $V(r_i)$  is the crystal field potential at the location of electron  $i$ .

6. The last two terms in the Hamiltonian represent the electron-Zeeman and nuclear-Zeeman interaction terms and may be written as

$$H_{SH} = \beta(\vec{L} + g_e \vec{S}) \cdot \vec{H} \quad (2.9)$$

$$\text{and } H_{IH} = (h/2\pi) \sum_i \gamma_i \vec{I}_i \cdot \vec{H} \quad (2.10)$$

where  $\gamma_i$  is the magnetogyric ratio of the  $i$ th nucleus.

The contribution of latter term is negligible ( $10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

In order to know the exact solution of the general Hamiltonian, one should solve the Schrodinger equation. But because it poses a formidable mathematical difficulty to do that, the solutions are obtained by using the perturbation theory. Since the effect of crystal field on the state of transition metal ions of iron group is very large, it is dealt with separately.

#### CRYSTAL FIELD SPLITTING

The magnetic ion in a crystalline solid is subjected to a stark field. This field is due to electronic and nuclei charges of neighbouring ions. In the crystal field approximation, the sources of stark field are regarded as point charges or dipoles located at the centres of corresponding charges (ligands). These surrounding ions have some symmetry about the metal ion. Depending on the symmetry of the field, the degeneracy of ground state of the magnetic ions is lifted completely or partly. The symmetry considerations have led Bethe<sup>2</sup> to find a qualitative solutions for the splitting of degenerate electronic states with the help of group theory. How the symmetry of crystalline field removes the degeneracy of an electronic state can, however, be visualized in the following manner.

Let us consider, for example, an electron of a paramagnetic ion in its 'd' orbital. Let the ion be located in an octahedral crystalline field, obtained by a set of six equal and identical point charges situated at equal distances on X, Y, and Z-axes of a Cartesian coordinate system from its origin where the seat of paramagnetic ion is taken. Out of the five d orbitals  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{yz}$  and  $d_{xz}$  are located in similar environments of crystal field and therefore correspond to equal energy. The orbital  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  with its area of maximum charge density lying nearest to the charges on X and Y- axes corresponds to higher electrostatic energy as compared to  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{yz}$  and  $d_{xz}$  orbital. Similarly the energy of  $d_{z^2}$  orbital is greater than that of  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{yz}$ , or  $d_{xz}$ . The energy of  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  and  $d_{z^2}$  orbitals comes out to be same though it is not so apparent here. Therefore it is seen from the symmetry consideration that the degeneracy of d-orbital electron in a crystalline field of octahedral symmetry is partly lifted. We get a low lying triplet state and a higher lying doubly degenerate state.

The degeneracy of the ground level can also be lifted due to Jahn Teller effect. This states that a non-linear molecule with the degenerate ground state is unstable and it distorts in such a way that the ground state becomes non-degenerate.

There is another important theorem which deals with the restriction on degeneracy which can be removed by an electrostatic field. This is known as Kramers Theorem. This states that the degeneracy of any level of a system with an odd number of electrons cannot be reduced below two-fold by a purely electrostatic field. The degeneracy of such a system can only be removed by a magnetic field. For the understanding of crystal field splitting quantitatively, let us consider a paramagnetic ion situated at  $r$  near the origin of a coordinate system. Let the radius vector  $R_j$  represents the location of a discrete point charge  $q_j$  constituting the ligands. The potential due to point charge  $q_j$  at the position occupied by a magnetic ion is given by

$$V_j = \frac{q_j}{|\vec{R}_j - \vec{r}|} \quad (2.11)$$

The potential due to all the surrounding ligands will therefore be

$$V = \sum_j V_j = \sum_j \frac{q_j}{|\vec{R}_j - \vec{r}|} \quad (2.12)$$

where the index  $j$  sums over all the surrounding ligands. Sometimes it is convenient to express the potential in rectangular coordinates. For example, when the symmetry

of the crystalline field is octahedral the potential at a point h-vin, coordinates  $(x, y, z)$  due to negative points charges  $q$ 's located at distance  $\pm d$  from the origin on X, Y and Z-axes is given<sup>3</sup> by

$$V(x,y,z) = 6q/d + (35q/4d^5) [x^4+y^4+z^4 - (3/5)r^4] \quad (2.13)$$

Here the series is terminated at terms containing only the fourth power of  $r$ , as contribution from higher order terms would be zero for 'd' electron with which the work in this thesis is concerned.

If the charges located on Z-axis are slightly displaced away from the origin by a distance  $\epsilon$  as in Fig. 2.1, the symmetry of crystalline field becomes tetragonal. Now the potential due to this is given<sup>3</sup> by

$$\begin{aligned} V_t(x,y,z) = A_t [(3z^2-r^2) + (1/d^2)(35z^4/3 - 10r^2z^2 + r^4)] \\ + B_c [x^4+y^4+z^4 - (3/5)r^4] \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

where  $A_t = -3q\epsilon/4$  and  $B_c = 35q/4d^5$ . It is assumed that  $\epsilon \ll d$ . Here the co-efficient  $A_t$  gives the amount of tetragonal distortion present on the octohedral field.

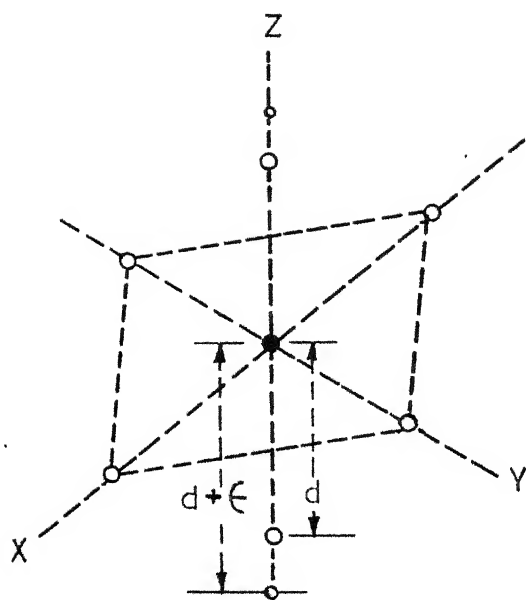


Fig.2.1 Schematic representation of a paramagnetic ion located at octahedral/tetragonally distorted octahedral site.

- ---- Paramagnetic ion
- ---- Ligand ions constituting octahedron
- ---- Displaced position of ligand ion on Z-axis

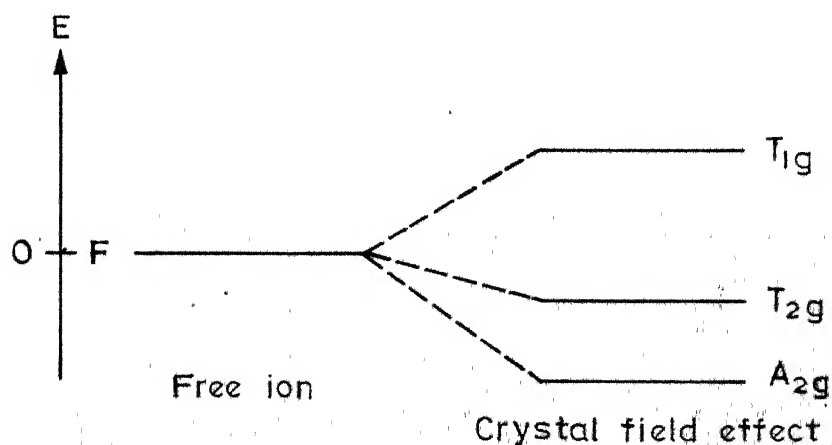


Fig.2.2 Schematic representation of energy levels of an F-state ion in octahedral crystal field.

The modification in the energy of d-electrons produced by the crystal field can be computed by matrix elements of the type  $J, M_Z, H_V, J, M_Z$ . In this expression  $H_V$  represents potential energy operator and  $J, M_j$  refer to total angular momentum and its projection on the quantization axis. For the purpose of computing the contribution of crystal field to energy, the function x, y and z in the crystal field operator may be replaced by the angular momentum operators  $J_x, J_y$  and  $J_z$ , based on Stevenson Theorem which states that for a set of eigen functions of  $J^2$  and  $J_z$  all having the same eigen value J, the matrix element of x and  $J_x$ , y and  $J_y$  and z and  $J_z$  are respectively proportional to one another.

In the transformation noncommuting property of the operators is to taken into account. The operator equivalents of some functions are given in the table below<sup>3</sup>

Function	Operator Equivalents
$x^n, y^n, z^n$	$(j_x)^n, (j_y)^n, (j_z)^n$
$r^2$	$J(J+1)$
$x^2 z^2$	$(1/6)[3J_x^2 j_z^2 + 3J_z^2 J_x^2 - 2J_x^2 + 3J_y^2 - 2j_z^2]$
$r^4$	$J^2(J+1)^2 - (1/3) J(J+1)$



The operator equivalent of  $\beta_c (x^4 + y^4 + z^4 - (3/5) r^4)$  is thus

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{\beta_c}{20} [35J_z^4 - 30J(J+1)J_z^2 + 25J_z^2 - 6J(J+1) \\ & + 3J^2 (J+1)^2] + \frac{\beta_c}{8} (J_+^4 + J_-^4) \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

and the operator equivalent for  $\alpha_t (3z^2 - r^2)$  is

$$\alpha_t [3J_z^2 - J(J+1)] \quad (2.16)$$

where  $\beta_c$  ;  $\alpha_t$  are constants. The above expressions are true for weak field case. For ions in the crystal field of intermediate strength J's are replaced by L's. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\text{oct}} = & \frac{\beta_c}{20} [35L_z^4 - 30L(L+1)L_z^2 + 25L_z^2 - \\ & - 6L(L+1) + 3L^2 (L+1)^2] + \frac{\beta_c}{8} (L_+^4 + L_-^4) \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

$$H_{\text{tet}} = H_{\text{oct}} + \alpha_t [3L_z^2 - L(L+1)] \quad (2.18)$$

The matrix elements of an F-state ion in a crystalline field of octahedral symmetry are given below<sup>3</sup>:

---

	$ 3\rangle$	$ 2\rangle$	$ 1\rangle$	$ 0\rangle$	$ -1\rangle$	$ -2\rangle$	$ -3\rangle$
$ 3\rangle$	$(3/10)\Delta$				$(\sqrt{15}/10)\Delta$		
$ 2\rangle$		$(-7/10)\Delta$				$\Delta/2$	
$ 1\rangle$			$\Delta/10$				$(\sqrt{15}/10)\Delta$
$ 0\rangle$				$3\Delta/5$			
$ -1\rangle$	$(\sqrt{15}/10)\Delta$				$\Delta/10$		
$ -2\rangle$		$\Delta/2$				$(-7/10)\Delta$	
$ -3\rangle$			$(\sqrt{15}/10)\Delta$				$(3/10)\Delta$

---

The secular determinant can be arranged into diagonal blocks, which on diagonalization separately give

$$W(T_{1g}) = (3/5)\Delta \quad (\text{Triply degenerate})$$

$$W(T_{2g}) = (-1/5)\Delta \quad (\text{Triply degenerate})$$

$$W(A_{2g}) = (-6/5)\Delta \quad (\text{Singlet})$$

Here  $\Delta = 30\beta_c$ , and  $T_{1g}$ ,  $T_{2g}$  and  $A_{2g}$  denotes the species the levels belongs to, under the octahedral symmetry group. This splitting is shown in Fig. 2.2.

## SPIN-ORBIT COUPLING

The effect of crystalline field is to remove partly or completely the orbital degeneracy of the ground state of a magnetic ion. When the orbital degeneracy is lifted completely, the orbital angular momentum of the ion is said to be quenched. This tendency of crystal field is opposed by spin-orbit coupling which interacting with some of the excited states, tries to mix some orbital angular momenta to the ground state. The amount of admixture of a state into the ground state, however, depends inversely upon its separation from the ground state level. The result of this admixture is to deviate the value of effective 'g' factor from that of the free spin of electron. The Hamiltonian for a free atom having spin-orbit interaction and subjected to a magnetic field  $H$  is given<sup>3</sup> by

$$H^* = H_{\text{mag}} + H_{\text{SO}} = \beta H (\vec{L} + g_e \vec{S}) + \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} \quad (2.19)$$

The terms in the above expression stand for their usual meaning and  $g_e$  represents  $g$  factor for electronic spin. Now if we assume the ground state to be nondegenerate orbitally and denote it by  $|G, M_g\rangle$  in the first order approximation, the energy of ground state is given<sup>3</sup> by the diagonal term and is therefore

$$E_G^{(1)} = \langle G, M_S | \beta H_Z (L_Z + g S_Z) + \lambda (\vec{L} \cdot \vec{S}) | G, M_S \rangle \quad (2.20)$$

where the quantization axis is taken as the z axis.

Rearranging, we have

$$E_G^{(1)} = \langle G, M_S | \beta H_Z g S_Z | G, M_S \rangle + \langle G, M_S |$$

$$| (\beta H_Z + \lambda S_Z) L_Z | G, M_S \rangle$$

The first term in equation (2.20) is the spin only Zeeman energy. The second term in this equation, can be written<sup>3</sup> as

$$\langle M_S | (\beta H_Z + \lambda S_Z) | M_S \rangle \quad \langle G | L_Z | G \rangle$$

Since the expectation value of  $L_Z$  is zero this term vanishes.

The second order contribution<sup>3</sup> in the Hamiltonian matrix is

$$H'_{M_S, M'_S} = - \sum_n' \frac{|\langle G, M_S | (\beta \vec{H} + \vec{S}) \cdot \vec{L} + g \beta \vec{H} \cdot \vec{S} | n, M'_S \rangle|^2}{E_n(0) - E_G(0)} \quad (2.21)$$

Here  $\Sigma'$  implies summation over all values of  $n$  excepting  $n = G$ .

The matrix element from the second term in equation (2.21) will be zero since  $\langle G | n \rangle = 0$  while the first term yields

$$H'_{M_S, M_S} = - \sum_n \left[ \frac{\langle M_S | (\beta \vec{H} + \vec{S}) \cdot \vec{L} | n \rangle \langle n | \vec{L} | G \rangle}{E_n(0) - E_G(0)} \cdot (\beta \vec{H} + \vec{S}) \cdot \vec{M}_S \right] \quad (2.22)$$

Since the outer product of two matrix elements yields a second rank tensor, we can define

$$\Lambda_{ij} = - \sum_n \frac{\langle G | L_i | n \rangle \langle n | L_j | G \rangle}{E_n(0) - E_G(0)}$$

where suffixes  $i, j$  stand for  $x, y$  or  $z$ .

Fence

$$\begin{aligned} H'_{M_S, M_S} &= \left[ \langle M_S | (\beta \vec{H} + \lambda \vec{S}) \cdot \underline{\Lambda} \cdot (\beta \vec{H} + \lambda \vec{S}) | M_S \rangle \right] \\ &= \langle M_S | \beta^2 \vec{H} \cdot \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{H} + \lambda^2 \vec{S} \cdot \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{S} + 2\beta \lambda \vec{H} \cdot \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{S} | M_S \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

The first term on R.H.S. of equation of (2.23) gives temperature independent paramagnetism and is neglected<sup>3</sup>. Taking into account the energy term from the first order, the resulting Hamiltonian can be written<sup>3</sup> as

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_S &= \beta \vec{H} \cdot \vec{g}_e \cdot \vec{S} + \lambda^2 \vec{S} \cdot \vec{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{S} + 2\beta \lambda \vec{H} \cdot \vec{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{S} \\
 &= \beta \vec{H} \cdot (\vec{g}_e \cdot \vec{I} + 2\lambda \vec{\Lambda}) \cdot \vec{S} + \lambda^2 \vec{S} \cdot \vec{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{S} \\
 &= \beta \vec{H} \cdot \vec{g} \cdot \vec{S} + \vec{S} \cdot \vec{D} \cdot \vec{S}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.24}$$

Here  $\vec{I}$  is the unit tensor,  $\vec{g} = \vec{g}_e \vec{I} + 2\lambda \vec{\Lambda}$  and  $\vec{D} = \lambda^2 \cdot \vec{\Lambda} \cdot \vec{S}$  is an operator which corresponds to the effective spin. The value of the effective spin  $S$  is determined by equating the total number of components of the ground state which are responsible for paramagnetic resonance absorption to  $2S+1$ . The effective spin is used in the calculation of the constants in the spin-Hamiltonian developed by Pryce<sup>4</sup> and Abragam and Pryce<sup>5</sup> for transition metal ions of the group. For an orbitally singlet state the splitting of spin degeneracy is small and effective spin is taken as equal to the actual spin. It is obvious that if  $\lambda = 0$ , the tensor  $\vec{g}$  should be isotropic with the value 2.00232. Any deviation from this value involves contribution from the tensor  $\vec{\Lambda}$  which is nothing but the contribution from the excited state.

The spin-spin interaction is also represented<sup>3</sup> by  $\vec{S} \cdot \vec{D} \cdot \vec{S}$  which is effective for  $S \gg 1$  and thus it is not possible to separate it from the analogous term in equation (2.24). The expression  $\vec{S} \cdot \vec{D} \cdot \vec{S}$  can be put in an alternative form as shown<sup>3</sup> below

$$\vec{S} \cdot \vec{D} \cdot \vec{S} = D_{xx} S_x^2 + D_{yy} S_y^2 + D_{zz} S_z^2$$

in the principal axis system. It can be arranged as

$$= D[S_z^2 - (1/3) S(S+1)] + E(S_x^2 - S_y^2) + (1/3)[(D_{xx} + D_{yy} + D_{zz}) S(S+1)]$$

Here  $D = D_{zz} - (D_{xx} + D_{yy})/2$ , and  $E = (D_{xx} - D_{yy})/2$ .

$\vec{D}$  is a traceless tensor making  $D_{xx} + D_{yy} + D_{zz} = 0$ . It is seen that for axial symmetry,  $E = 0$ , and for cubic symmetry  $D = 0$  also. However, in the case of cubic symmetry there will be fourth order terms, which are normally very small in the cases of strong axial symmetry, to make the Hamiltonian invariant under cubic point group. Therefore, taking the h.f. interactions into account, the total Hamiltonian can be written as<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H} = & \beta(g_x H_x S_x + g_y H_y S_y + g_z H_z S_z) + D[S_z^2 - (1/3)S(S+1)] \\
& + E(S_x^2 - S_y^2) + (a/6)[S_x^4 + S_y^4 + S_z^4 - (1/5)S(S+1) \\
& \cdot (3S^2 + 3S - 1)] + (F/180)[35S_z^4 - 30S(S+1)S_z^2 \\
& + 25S_z^2 - 6S(S+1) + 3S^2(S+1)^2] + A_z I_z S_z + A_x I_x S_x \\
& + A_y I_y S_y + Q'[I_z^2 - (1/3)I(I+1)] + Q''(I_x^2 - I_y^2)
\end{aligned}$$

Here  $a$  and  $F$  are fine structure constants,  $Q' = 3Q_{zz}/2$ ,  $Q'' = (Q_{xx} - Q_{yy})/2$  and  $A_x$ ,  $A_y$  and  $A_z$  are principal values of hyperfine tensor.

#### ZERO-FIELD SPLITTING OF S STATE IONS

The ground state of  $Mn^{2+}$  ion is  $3d^5 \ 6S_{5/2}$ .

Since the electronic charge distribution of the S-state is spherically symmetric, the crystal field will not split this state. Further, since the total orbital angular momentum  $L = 0$ , the spin-orbit coupling will not, to a first order, split its six fold spin degeneracy. The zero field splitting of this state, however, is known since long.

The group theoretical treatment of Bethe<sup>2</sup> indicates that this state with  $J = 5/2$  gets split even in a cubic field, into two components- a doubly degenerate and a quartely degenerate. A further distortion of this field can cause



the splitting of quartet into two doublets. Thus in a field of axial symmetry or lower symmetry, zero field splitting gives three Kramer's doublets. The degeneracy of these levels is lifted in the presence of magnetic field as shown in Fig. 2.3.

The mechanism of zero field splitting of  $S$  state ion in crystalline environment has been studied by several workers. The origin of splitting of this state was first discussed by the Van Vleck and Penny<sup>7</sup>. They considered higher order admixtures involving spin orbit coupling. The mechanism proposed by Pryce<sup>8</sup> involves spin-spin interaction and admixture of state from  $3d^4 4s$  configuration. Watanabe<sup>9</sup> considered spin-spin and spin-orbit interaction between states of  $3d^5$  configuration responsible for zero field splitting. Blume and Orbach<sup>10</sup> mechanism involves spin-orbit admixture of excited  $|^4P_3\rangle$  into ground  $^6S_{5/2}$  state in the axial field splitting of deformed cubic host.

Wybourne<sup>11</sup> used relativistic wave functions in the calculation of crystal field matrix element using  $u-S$  basis states for the angular part and Hartree-Fock type wave functions for the radial part. Sharma et al,<sup>12</sup> took into account the spin-spin, and spin-orbit interaction together with overlap effect for calculating the magnitude

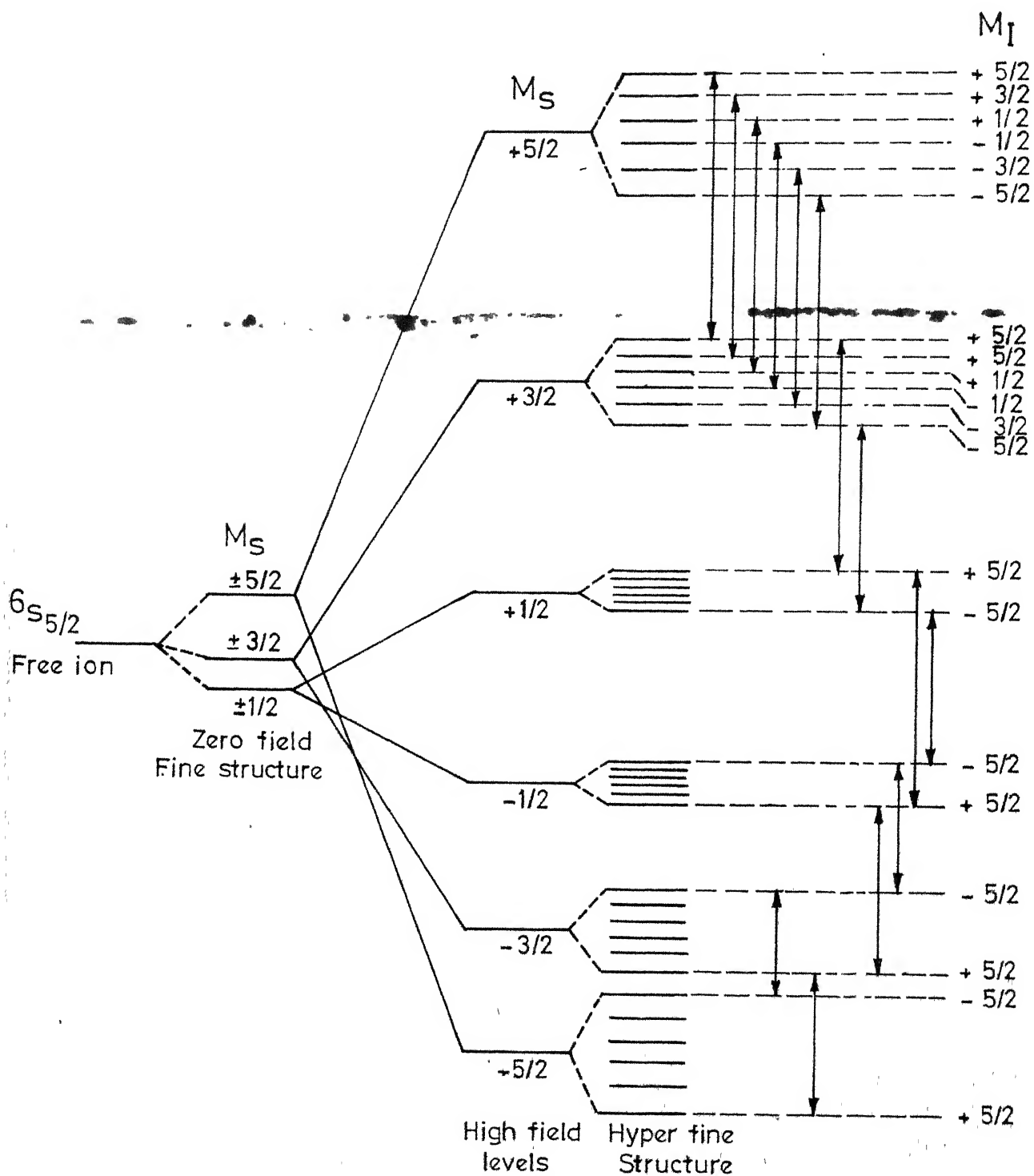


Fig.2.3 A schematic energy-level diagram of  $Mn^{2+}$  ion showing electronic levels in zero and strong magnetic field together with splitting due to nuclear spin. Some of the typical transitions,  $\Delta M_S = \pm 1$   $\Delta M_I = 0$  are indicated by arrows.

and sign of the zero field splitting parameters D and E. Srivastava<sup>13</sup> proposed phonon induced crystal field effect for cubic field splitting of this state. In general, the zero-field splitting is due to all effects mentioned above though the relative contributions are different.<sup>14</sup>

A pure S-state will show no hyperfine splitting firstly because its orbital angular momentum and therefore its orbital magnetic moment is zero and secondly because the magnetic field produced at the site of nucleus due to the spin of spherically distributed electronic charge around the nucleus, is zero. Abragam<sup>15</sup> proposed that the observed h.f. splitting may be due to configuration interaction of  $3s\ 3d^5\ 4s$ . The s-electron has nonvanishing spin density at the nucleus and therefore may contribute to Fermi or contact interaction. Orbitals such as p and d have nodal planes passing through nucleus and therefore have zero spin density. The contribution to the magnetic field due to electron at the site of nucleus may come through core polarization. The two s-electrons of 3s orbital are coupled electrostatically to 3d electrons. The wave functions of these two electrons differ from each other by an exchange term and consequently they are not paired off completely. This may give rise to magnetic field at the nucleus. The interaction between nuclear and electronic magnetic field may give rise to hyperfine splitting.

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## CHAPTER 3

### ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE OF $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ION IN DIAMMONIUM OXALATE MONOHYDRATE SINGLE CRYSTAL

#### ABSTRACT

The electron paramagnetic resonance of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion in single crystals of diammonium oxalate monohydrate has been investigated for the first time. This study indicates that  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion substitutes for  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion in the crystal lattice and is associated with first neighbour  $\text{NH}_4^+$  vacancy such that the Z-axis of the complex lies in a b plane. The spectrum has been fitted to a spin-Hamiltonian appropriate for orthorhombic symmetry.

## INTRODUCTION

The electron paramagnetic resonance of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion doped in a single crystal of diammonium oxalate monohydrate  $[(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}]$  has been studied at room temperature. No EPR study seems to have been made on this crystal doped with impurity ions. However, EPR study of  $\gamma$ -irradiated crystal has been reported<sup>1</sup> and it shows the formation of  $\text{C}_2\text{C}_4^-$  radical derived from  $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{--}$  ion and OH radical derived from the water molecule in the crystal lattice.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Single crystals of diammonium oxalate monohydrate doped with  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion were grown from the aqueous solution of salt containing about 1 percent of  $\text{MnCl}_2$  by weight evaporating the solution in a dessicator containing concentrated sulphuric acid at room temperature. The crystals were transparent and prismatic in shape with the growth axis along the c-axis of the crystal. This axis was confirmed by x-ray rotation picture taken with a Weisenberg camera. The crystal used for the EPR study had dimensions  $0.5 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \text{ cm}^3$ .

The EPR spectra were recorded with a Varian V-4502 EPR spectrometer. The magnetic field was produced

by a Varian 12 inch electromagnet and modulated at 100 kHz. The cylindrical as well as rectangular resonant cavities were used. The spectra were recorded with a dual channel strip chart recorder. The frequency of the klystron was measured with Hewlett Packard frequency meter, Model X532 B. DPPH was used as a field marker.

#### CRYSTAL STRUCTURE

The crystal structure of diammonium oxalate monohydrate has been studied in detail by X-ray<sup>2</sup> and neutron diffraction<sup>3</sup> techniques. The crystal belongs to an orthorhombic system and its space group is  $D_2^3(P2_12_12)$ . In the ab plane of the crystal lattice, there are four screw diads, a set of two being parallel to the crystal a-axis and the other two to b-axis. There are four ammonium ions in the unit cell.

The X-ray analysis places all atoms except the oxygens of water molecules in the general positions of the  $D_2^3(P2_12_12)$  space group:

$$xyz ; \bar{x} \bar{y} z ; x + 1/2, 1/2 - y, \bar{z} ; 1/2 - x, y + 1/2, \bar{z}$$

with the following parameters.<sup>4</sup>



C	:	x = 0.092,	y = 0.027,	z = 0.066
O(1)	:	x = 0.200,	y = -0.056,	z = 0.140
O(2)	:	x = 0.118,	y = 0.142,	z = 0.001
NH <sub>4</sub>	:	x = 0.386,	y = 0.228,	z = 0.424

The water molecules are situated at  $0, 1/2, u$ ;  $0, \bar{u}$  with  $u = 0.192$ . The above parameters are referred to the unit cell dimensions

$$a = 8.04 \text{ \AA}, b = 10.27 \text{ \AA}, c = 3.32 \text{ \AA}$$

The structure of diammonium oxalate monohydrate projected on the basal plane is shown in Fig. 3.1.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The electronic configuration of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  is  $3d^5$  and consequently the ground state of the free ion is  ${}^6S_{5/2}$ . This state is orbitally nondegenerate but has six-fold spin degeneracy. Under the action of the crystalline field of orthorhombic symmetry or lower symmetry, this degenerate state is splits into three Kramers' doublets which further split into six levels under a static magnetic field. The EPR spectrum of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion in such an environment is expected to show five fine structure transitions and each of these will consist of six hyperfine components due to nuclear spin  $I = 5/2$ . Figures 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 show the

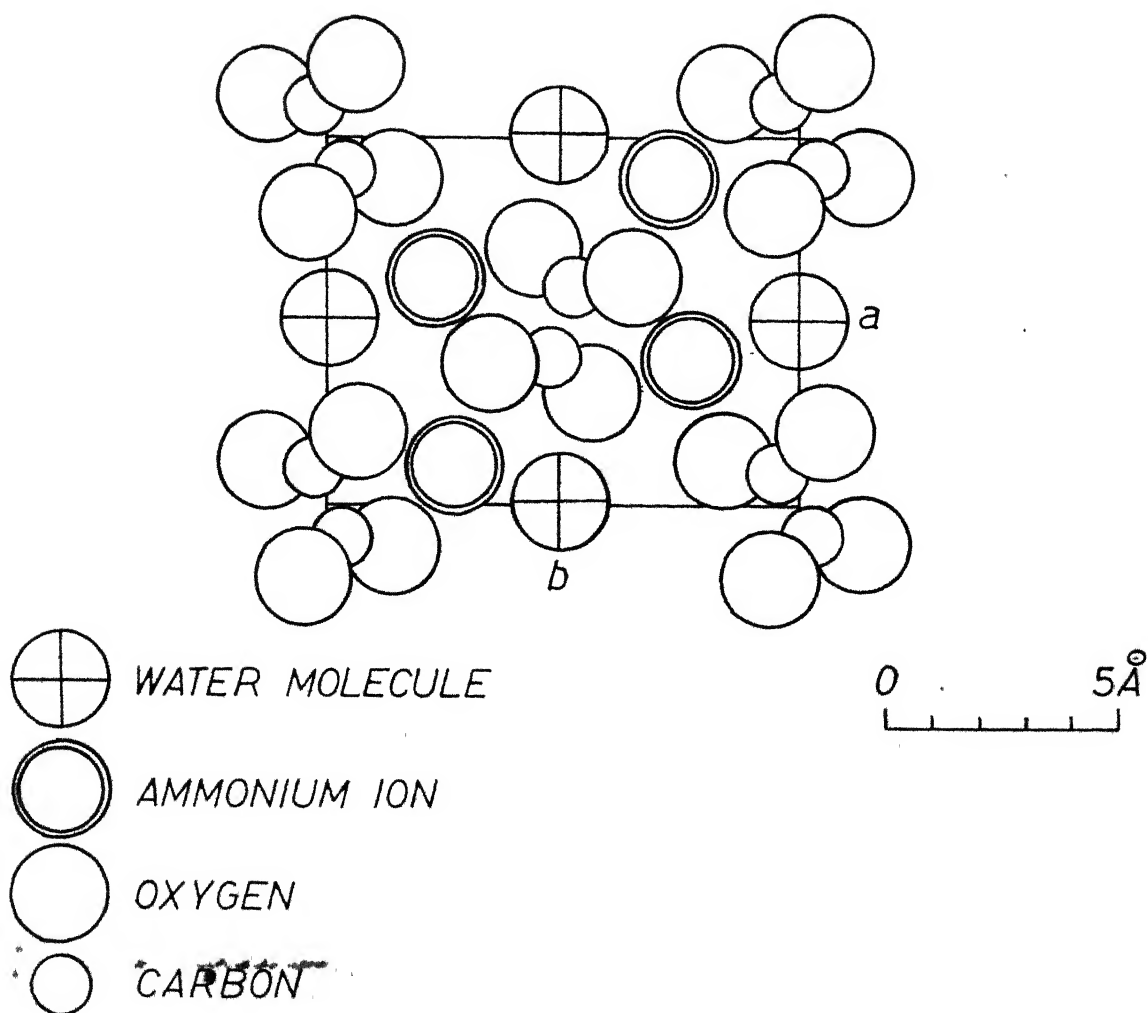


FIG. 3.1 THE STRUCTURE OF  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  PROJECTED ON THE BASAL PLANE<sup>4</sup>  $ab$ .

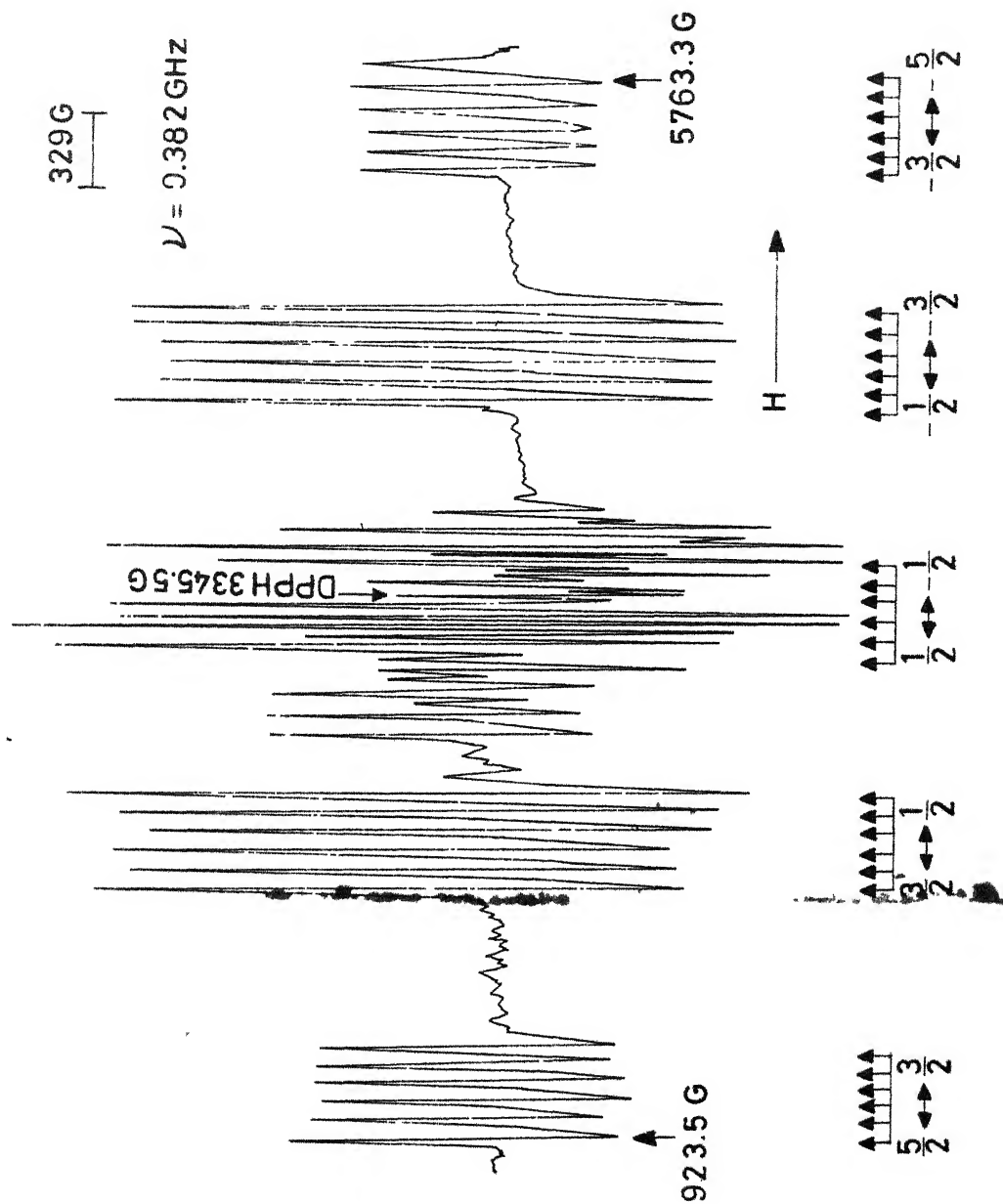


FIG. 3.2 THE EPR SPECTRUM OF  $Mn^{2+}$  IONS DOPED IN  $(NH_4)_2SO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$  SINGLE CRYSTAL WITH  $H$  ALONG  $z$ -AXIS OF ONE OF THE SITES  $4a$  AND  $4b$  IS DERIVATIVE. THE COALSCED SPECTRUM (CORRESPONDING TO  $\theta = 60^\circ$ ) OF THE SAME SINGLE CRYSTAL IS SHOWN IN THE SAME SCALE OF THE FIGURE.

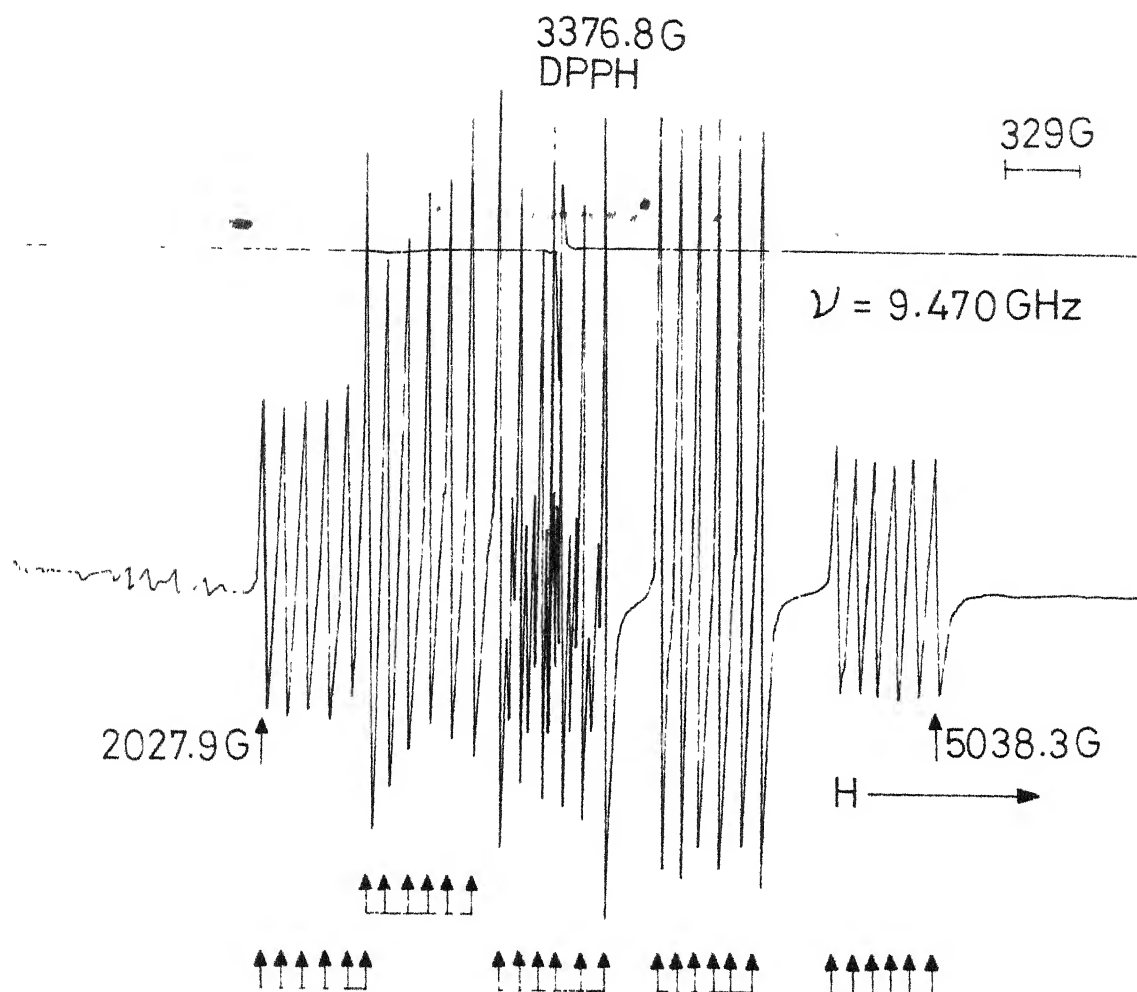


Fig. 4.3. The EPR spectrum of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion doped in  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  single crystal with magnetic field along X-axis at 77°K temperature. The extra lines seen in the central part of the spectrum are due to the second site.

DPPH (3345.5G)

329G

$\nu = 9.382 \text{ GHz}$

2343.9 G

4531.8 G

H →

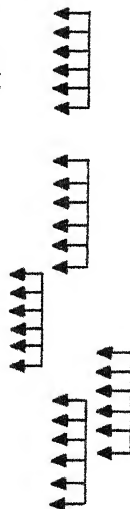


FIG. 3.4 THE EPR SPECTRUM OF  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ION DOPED IN  $(\text{Mg})_{20}\text{O} \cdot 2\text{O} \cdot 12\text{O}$  SINGLE CRYSTALS WITH MAGNETIC FIELD ALONG Y-AXIS OF ONE OF THE SITES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. THE 'HYPERFINE SET' SEEN AT THE LOW FIELD SIDE SHOWS SEVEN HYPERFINE SPLITTING WHICH DECREASED WITH INCREASE OF H. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE OTHER HYPERFINE SET WHICH IS 90° IN THIS FIGURE. THE LOW FIELD TRANSITION IS PROBABLY DUE TO A FORBIDDEN TRANSITION.

Z, X, and Y-axes spectra respectively of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion in  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  single crystals at room temperature. The Z-axis spectrum, corresponding to the maximum spread has been obtained by rotating the crystal in different planes using two-plane goniometer. Z-axis has been found to lie in the crystallographic ab plane. X and Y axes are located by studying the angular variation in the ab plane and in a plane obtained by making the c-axis horizontal with the help of two plane goniometer<sup>5</sup> and looking for the extreme separated by  $90^\circ$ . The angular variation further revealed the existence of two identical Z-axis spectra at an angular separation of  $60^\circ$  in ab plane. On further rotation of the crystal in this plane no such spectrum was obtained till  $130^\circ$  part of the first Z-axis spectrum appeared. The angular variation of the spectrum for one complex in ZX plane is shown in Fig. 3.5. This clearly indicates the existence of two physically identical complexes which are magnetically inequivalent for a random direction, with their Z-axes separated by an angle of  $60^\circ$  in the ab plane. The most probable site which  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ion will occupy is a substitutional position at  $\text{NH}_4^+$  site. In figure 3.6, the positions of four ammonium ions in the unit cell are marked by I, II, III and IV. The ammonium ions marked

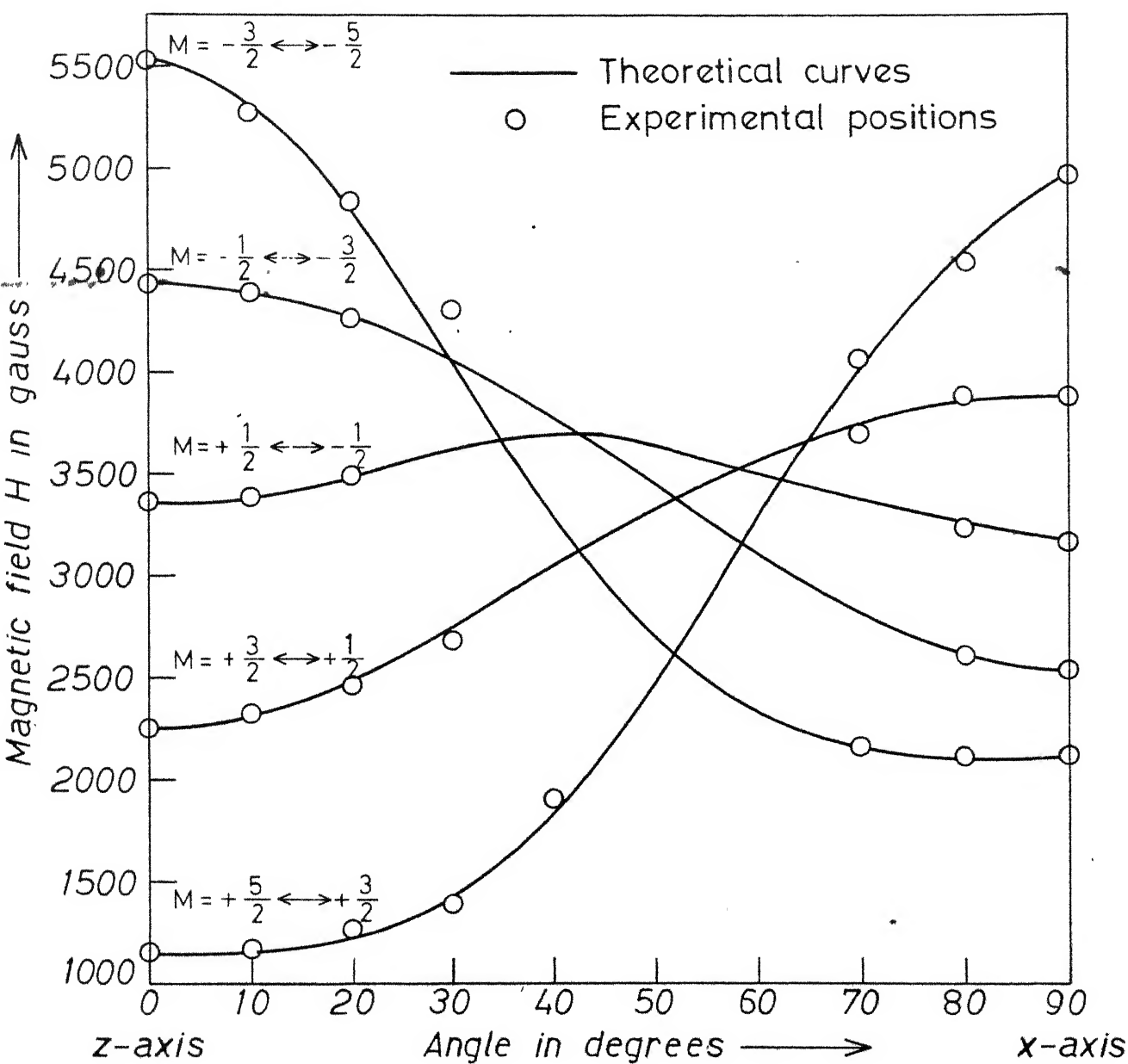


FIG. 3.5 ANGULAR VARIATION OF THE ALLOWED FINE STRUCTURE TRANSITION IN THE ZX PLANE OF THE ONE OF THE MAGNETIC COMPLEXES OF  $Mn^{2+}$  IN  $(NH_4)_2C_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$  SINGLE CRYSTALS.

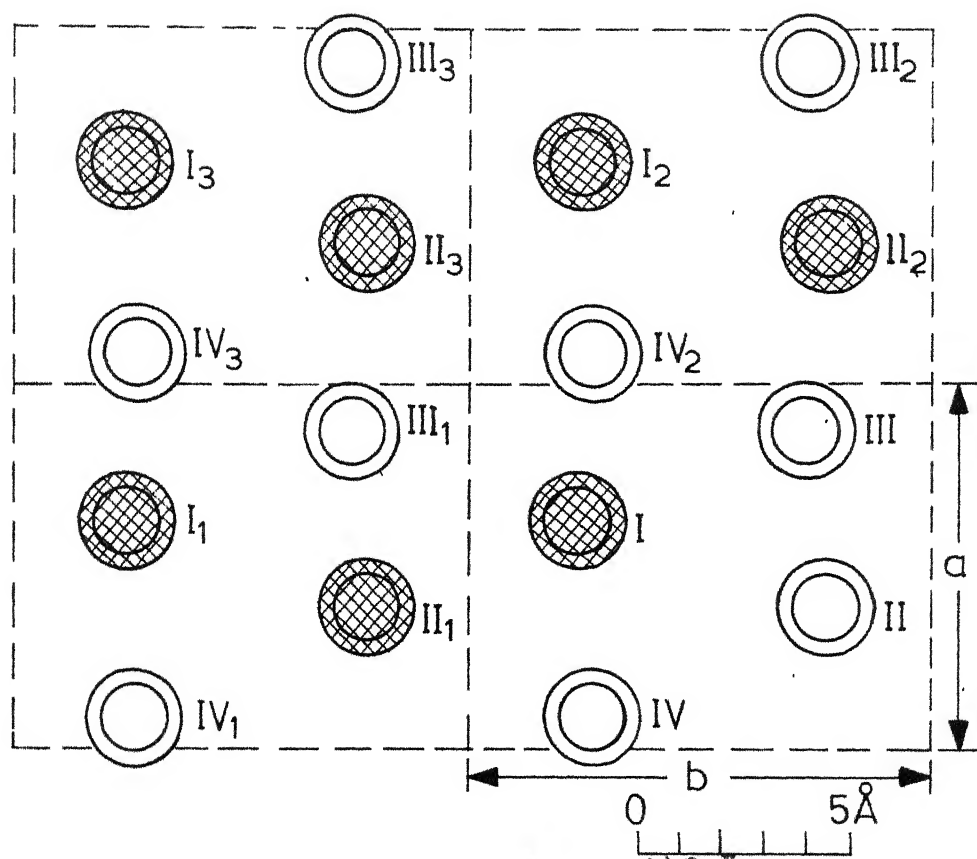


FIG. 5.6 PROJECTION OF AMMONIUM IONS IN THE  $ab$  PLANE SHOWING FOUR ADJOINING UNIT CELLS OF DIAMMONIUM OXALATE MONOHYDRATE. SHADED RINGS REPRESENT  $\text{NH}_4^+$  IONS ABOVE THE PLANE OF THE PAPER AND UNSHADED CIRCLES REPRESENT THOSE BELOW THE PLANE OF THE PAPER.



by I and II in Fig. 3.6 are related by  $C_2$  symmetry about the c-axis, and so also those marked by III and IV. These two sets are not quite independent and are related by screw diads. If  $Mn^{2+}$  occupies a  $NH_4^+$  site and is not associated with any charge compensating defects the spectrum essentially should reflect the symmetry of the crystal with c-axis ( $C_2$ ) as the Z-axis. However, this has not been the case. The observation of a complex having two possible orientations such that the corresponding Z-axes are separated by about  $60^\circ$  in the ab plane is consistent with the following model.  $Mn^{2+}$  occupies the  $NH_4^+$  ion sites I (or II) and is associated with a first neighbour cation vacancy at  $II_1$ . A symmetric related configuration of such a  $Mn^{2+}$  - vacancy complex will be  $Mn^{2+}$  at III associated with a vacancy at  $IV_2$ . This is illustrated in Fig. 3.7. This results in two magnetically inequivalent complexes having Z-axes separated by  $60^\circ$  in the ab plane. A similar model with second neighbour cation vacancies either in ab plane or out of ab plane does not result in the observed behaviour and hence it has not been considered.

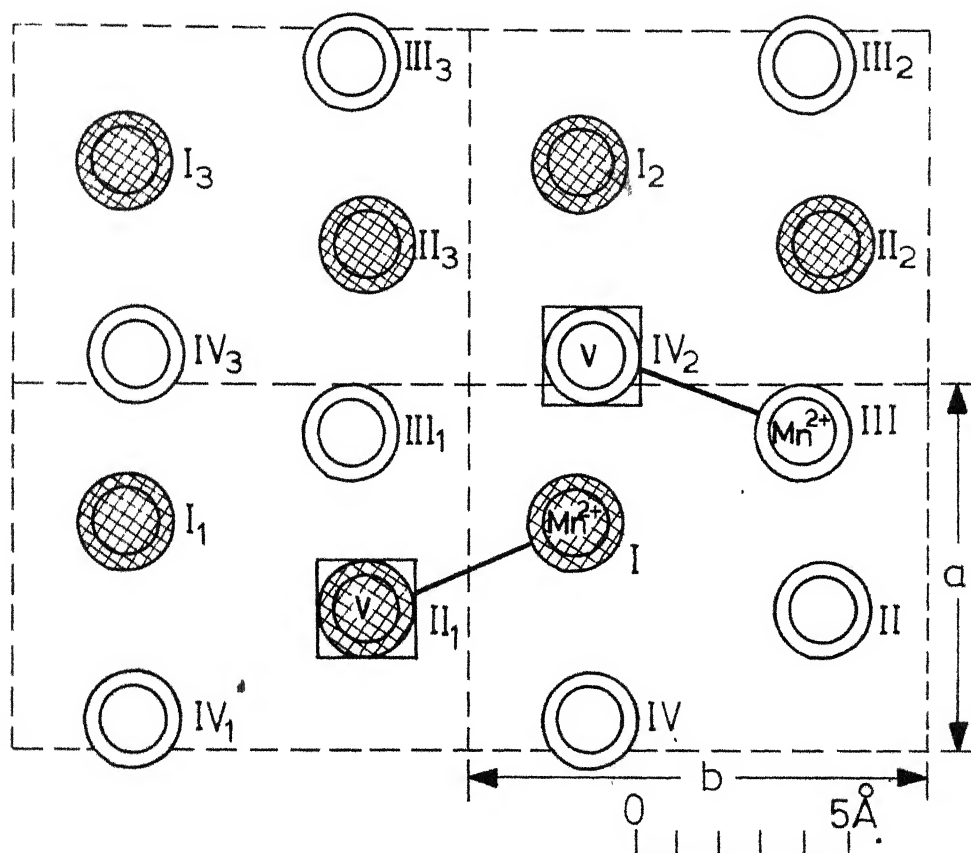


FIG. 3.7 PROJECTION OF AMMONIUM IONS IN THE  $ab$  PLANE SHOWING FOUR ADJOINING UNIT CELLS OF DIARGONIUM OXALATE MONOHYDRATE. SHADED RINGS REPRESENT  $\text{NH}_4^+$  IONS ABOVE THE PLANE OF THE PAPER AND UNSHADED ONES REPRESENT THOSE BELOW THE PLANE OF THE PAPER. A TWO POSSIBLE  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  - VACANCY PAIRS IN TWO ADJOINING UNIT CELLS ARE SHOWN.  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  IS IN THE SUBSTITUTIONAL POSITION.  $\square$  STANDS FOR VACANCY OF  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ION.

The Z-, Y- and X-axes spectra of  $Mn^{2+}$  ion ( $S = 5/2$ ,  $I = 5/2$ ) corresponding to transitions  $\Delta M_S = \pm 1$ ,  $\Delta M_I = 0$  were analysed using the spin-Hamiltonian<sup>6</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} = & \rho g_Z H_Z S_Z + \beta g_x h_x S_x + \beta g_y H_y S_y \\ & + D[S_Z^2 - (1/3)S(S+1)] + E(S_x^2 - S_y^2) \\ & + A_Z S_Z I_Z + A_x S_x I_x + A_y S_y I_y \end{aligned}$$

The suffixes x, y and z represent corresponding components along principal axes. In case of  $D$  and  $E \ll$  Zeeman term and  $E \ll D$ , the terms upto third order as given by Chambers et al<sup>5</sup> were found sufficient for this system. The resonance magnetic fields for different transitions for the magnetic field along Z-direction of the crystalline field are given<sup>6</sup> below:

(a) Fine Structure transitions.

$$\begin{aligned} H(P_S = \pm 5/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 3/2) &= H_0 + 4D + 4 \frac{E^2}{H_0} + 6 \frac{DE^2}{H_0^2} + \frac{36D^2E^2}{H_0^3} + \frac{28E^4}{H_0^3} \\ H(M_S = \pm 3/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 1/2) &= H_0 + 2D - \frac{5E^2}{H_0} + \frac{33DE^2}{H_0^2} + \frac{45D^2E^2}{H_0^3} \\ &\quad - \frac{5}{4} \frac{E^4}{H_0^3} \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

$$\text{and } H(M_S = +1/2 \leftrightarrow -1/2) = H_0 - \frac{8E^2}{H_0} + \frac{72D^2E^2}{H_0^3} + \frac{56E^4}{H_0^3}$$

## (b) Hyperfine Transitions

$$H(M_S, m_I \leftrightarrow M_S \pm 1, m_I) = -Am_I - \frac{B^2}{2H_0} \cdot \left[ \frac{35}{4} - m_I^2 + m_I(2M_S - 1) \right] \quad (3.2)$$

where  $A = A_Z$  and  $B = \frac{(A_X + A_Y)}{2}$

When the magnetic field is along the X-or the Y-axis, the above equations are modified<sup>7</sup> by replacing D by  $1/2 (3E - D)$ , and E by  $(1/2) (D + E)$  for H along X-axis; and D by  $-1/2 (D + 3E)$  and E by  $1/2 (D - E)$  for H along Y-axis.

In evaluating the spin-Hamiltonian parameters from the Z-axis spectra four fine structure positions have been used. The position of the central  $(+ 1/2 \leftrightarrow - 1/2)$  transition could not be accurately determined due to overlap of other lines from the second site. The values of  $H_0$  were approximately calculated from the expressions for extreme fine structure positions  $H_1$  and  $H_5$ , and also the next  $H_2$  and  $H_4$ , neglecting higher order terms in these expressions. A rough estimate of D was made by averaging its value obtained from the differences of  $H_1$  and  $H_5$  and  $H_2$  and  $H_4$ , neglecting higher order terms in these expressions.

The value of  $D$  obtained from the Z-axis spectrum was further more accurately calculated taking into account the contribution from higher order terms using average value of  $E$  of X- and Y-axis spectra. The value of  $E$  could not be estimated from the Z-axis spectrum since there is no linear term in  $E$  and contribution from the  $\frac{E^2}{H_0}$  term is very small. The values of  $(D+3E)$  from the Y-axis spectrum was first estimated roughly by taking the difference of  $H_4$  and  $H_2$ ,  $H_5$  and  $H_1$  and  $(D-E)$  from the  $H_3$ . The equation (5.1) were used to estimate  $D$  and  $E$ . Further refinement was made by taking into account the contribution from higher order terms in the transformed expression for Y-axis spectrum. A similar procedure was adopted to get the refined values of  $D$  and  $E$ . From the X-axis spectrum the values of  $H_0$  were obtained by adding  $H_5$  and  $H_1$ ,  $H_4$  and  $H_2$ , taking into account the contributions from higher order terms involving  $D$  and  $E$ . The spin-Hamiltonian parameters calculated from the X, Y and Z axis spectra are given in Table 3.1. The consistency of the parameters obtained is satisfactory.

Table 3.1. The spin Hamiltonian parameters for  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  doped in  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

	Z	Y	X
$D(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$513 \times 10^{-4}$	$511 \times 10^{-4}$	$511 \times 10^{-4}$
$E(\text{cm}^{-1})$	+	$37 \times 10^{-4}$	$32 \times 10^{-4}$
$g$	2.0069	2.0099	2.007
$A(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$82 \times 10^{-4}$	$84 \times 10^{-4}$	$87 \times 10^{-4}$

+ The value of  $E$  from Z-axis spectrum could not be calculated due to small value of  $-\frac{E^2}{H_0}$  term.  $E$  does not appear in linear form in the expressions for Z-axis fine structure transitions,  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$ .

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## CHAPTER 4

### ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE STUDY OF $\text{VO}^{2+}$ IN $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ SINGLE CRYSTAL

#### ABSTRACT

The electron paramagnetic resonance of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion in  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  single crystal at room temperature has been studied. The EPR results suggest the formation of two vanadyl complexes in  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  lattice. One of these complexes seems to be the well known  $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$  which probably has been trapped in an orderly way in the crystal lattice. For the other centre,  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion seems to have entered the lattice interstitially resulting in the formation of a square bipyramidal type of vanadium.



## INTRODUCTION

The electron paramagnetic resonance of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion has been observed in distorted octahedral environments of hexahydrate complexes, the examples being alkali alums<sup>1,2</sup> and Tutton salts.<sup>3</sup> In alums trivalent cations are surrounded by nearly regular octahedra of water molecules where as in Tutton salts, the divalent cations have such octahedral surroundings. On doping the alums<sup>1,2</sup> with vanadyl salts,  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  substitutes for trivalent cations in alums and forms a complex  $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$  replacing one water molecule by oxygen of V-O.  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion entering in  $\text{TiO}_2$ <sup>4</sup> and  $\text{GeO}_2$ <sup>5</sup> lattices is surrounded by a distorted octahedron of oxygens. Banerjee<sup>5a</sup> carried out preliminary work in this laboratory a few years ago on the EPR of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  in Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KDP) single crystals, but no definite progress could be made in understanding the system at that time. A detailed study has now revealed the existence of two types of vanadium complexes in KDP crystals and the present chapter deals with the results obtained in this connection.

## CRYSTAL STRUCTURE

Potassium dihydrogen phosphate belongs to a tetragonal system at room temperature and its space group is  $D_{2d}^{12} - 14\ 2d$ . There are four molecules of  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  in its unit cell. In the ferroelectric phase (Curie temp.

$T_c = 123^\circ\text{K}$ ) the crystal belongs to an orthorhombic system of class  $C_{2v}^{19}$  Fdd. The crystal structure was first studied by West<sup>7</sup> using X-ray techniques. The dimensions of the unit in the tetragonal phase determined more accurately by Ubbelohde and Woodward<sup>8</sup> are as follows:

$$a = b = 7.434 \text{ \AA}, c = 6.954 \text{ \AA}$$

The atomic coordinates in the unit cell are given in the table 4.1.

Table 4.1. Positions of atoms in the unit cell of  $\text{LiH}_2\text{PO}_4$

Lattice points	Coordinates
4(P)	0,0,0; 1/2,0,1/4; 1/2,1/2,1/2; 0,1/2,3/4
4(K)	0,0,1/2; 1/2,0,3/4; 1/2,1/2,0; 0,1/2, 1/4
16(O)	x,y,z; 1/2 - x,y, 1/4-z,
	$\bar{x},\bar{y},z$ ; 1/2 + x,y, 1/4-z
	$\bar{y},\bar{x},z$ ; 1/2 + y,x, 1/4+z
	y,x, $\bar{z}$ ; 1/2 - y, $\bar{x}$ , 1/4+z;
	plus eight
	similar points about 1/2,1/2,1/2.

The parameters of oxygen determined accurately by neutron diffraction technique are  $x = 0.0328$ ,  $y = 0.1436$ ,  $z = 0.1261$ .

The  $\text{PO}_4$  groups are nearly regular tetrahedra. Every phosphate group is linked to four neighbouring groups by hydrogen bonds. The length of C-H...O bond is about 2.5 Å. The hydrogen bond in the lattice is such that it links an oxygen belonging to an upper phosphate group to a neighbouring oxygen belonging to a lower phosphate group. Each hydrogen bond lies very nearly perpendicular to the c-axis. In the paraelectric phase, the information about the location of hydrogen is given by neutron diffraction analysis which shows a peak of scattering density midway between the two oxygens linked by hydrogen bond. The peak is found elongated along the axis of the bond. This fact may be explained either by taking the thermal amplitude of vibration of the hydrogen atom to be larger along the bond direction or by taking statistical distribution of hydrogen over two positions of equilibrium on the bond, which are about 0.40 Å apart. The infra-red and Raman investigations indicate the validity of the second interpretation. The structure of the unit cell of  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  in the space group  $I \bar{4}2d^7$  is given in Fig. 4.1.

In order to compare the  $\text{Fd}\bar{d}$  system below the Curie point with the tetragonal phase  $I \bar{4}2d$  system,

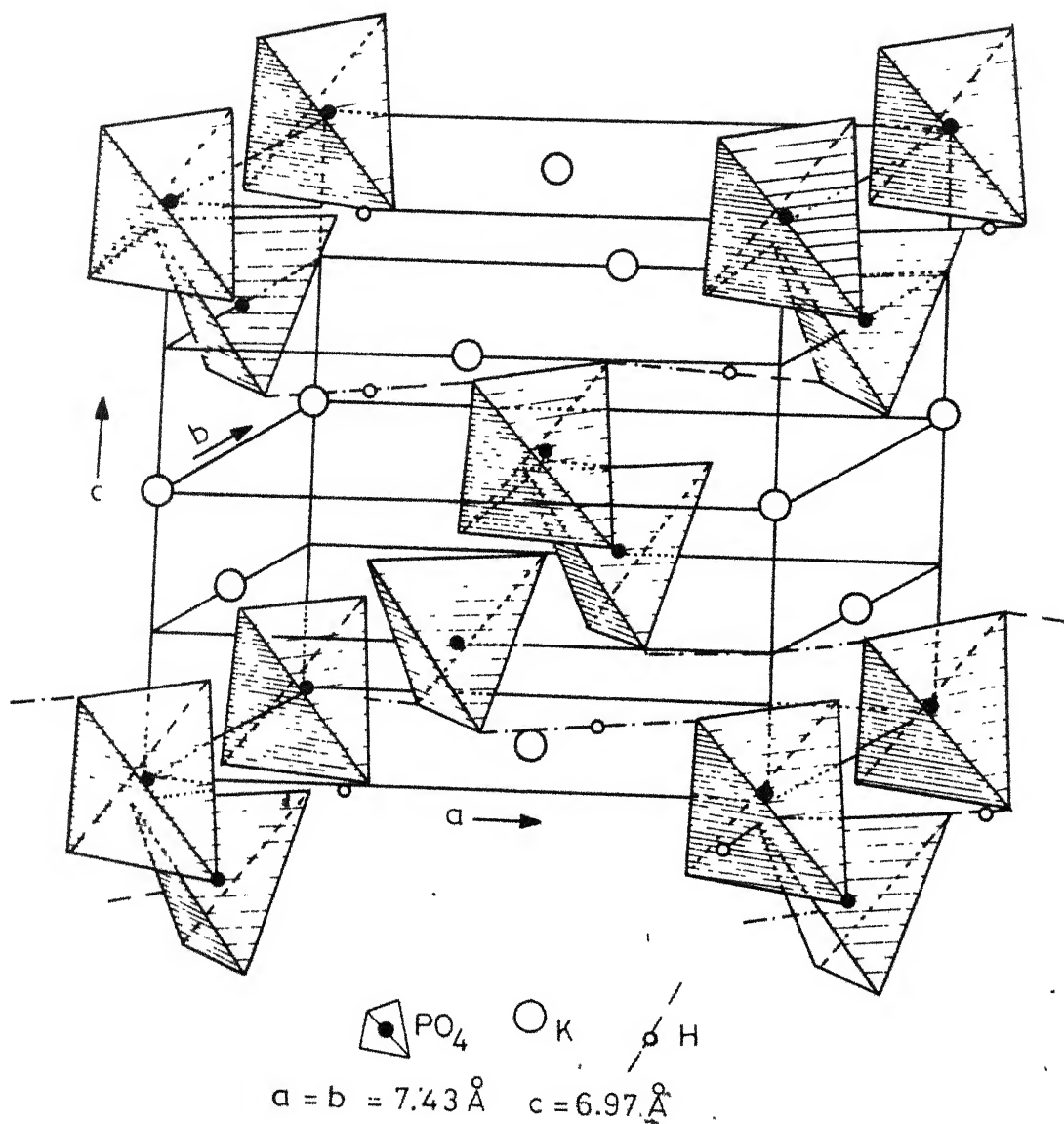


FIG. 4.1 STRUCTURE OF  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  UNIT CELL IN SPACE GROUP  $I\bar{4}2d$ .

The above Hamiltonian gives the resonance magnetic field positions of the hyperfine lines<sup>8</sup> to second order in A and B as

$$H = H_0 - \frac{\Delta m I}{g\beta} - \frac{B^2(A^2 + K^2)}{4H_0 g^2 \beta^2 K^2} [I(I+1) - m_I^2] \quad (4.2)$$

$$- \frac{(A^2 - B^2)^2 g_{\parallel}^2 g_{\perp}^2}{2 H_0 g^2 \beta^2 K^2 g^2} \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta m_I^2$$

where  $H_0 = \frac{h\nu}{g\beta}$ ,  $g^2 = g_{\parallel}^2 \cos^2 \theta + g_{\perp}^2 \sin^2 \theta$ , and

$K^2 g^2 = A^2 g_{\parallel}^2 \cos^2 \theta + B^2 g_{\perp}^2 \sin^2 \theta$ , being the angle between the Z-axis and the direction of the static magnetic field.

#### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Single crystals of potassium dihydrogen phosphate with  $VO^{2+}$  impurity ions were grown from the aqueous solution of ANALAR grade KDP salt containing 1 percent vanadyl sulphate by weight. A good quality crystal was chosen and cut for EPR study. The dimensions of the cut crystal were  $0.6 \times 0.3 \times 0.3 \text{ cm}^3$ . The crystal was slightly blue in colour indicating the presence of  $VO^{2+}$  ion. The spectroscopic analysis of experimental crystal (carried out at the Spectroscopy Division, B.A.R.C., Bombay, India) revealed the presence of about 50 part per million of vanadium. The crystallographic axes of KDP were confirmed

by X-ray rotation picture taken with a Weisenberg camera.

The EPR spectrum was recorded on a Varian V-4502 spectrometer in the L-band, by mounting the crystal on a two plane goniometer crystal holder. Dual rectangular cavity was used and the spectra were recorded on a dual strip-chart recorder. The magnetic field was produced by a 12-inch electromagnet and was modulated by a 100 kHz modulator. DPPH,  $g = 2.0036$ , was used as a field marker. The frequency of the klystron was measured with a Hewlett Packard frequency meter X-532B.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two spectra corresponding to two different kinds of centres are obtained. One of them which is predominantly strong; will be referred to as spectrum I while the other one which is of moderate intensity will be referred to as spectrum II. Fig. 4.2 shows the two spectra for H parallel to the c-axis of the crystal. Spectrum I shows an octet marked  $A_1 \dots A_8$  in the figure while spectrum II shows two octets marked  $a_1 \dots a_8$  and  $b_1 \dots b_8$ . There is a remarkable similarity between the features of spectrum II and those of the spectra corresponding to the axial vanadyl pentahydrate complex  $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$  observed by Manooogian and Mackinnon<sup>1</sup> and by Rao, Sastry and Venkateswarlu<sup>2,9</sup> in

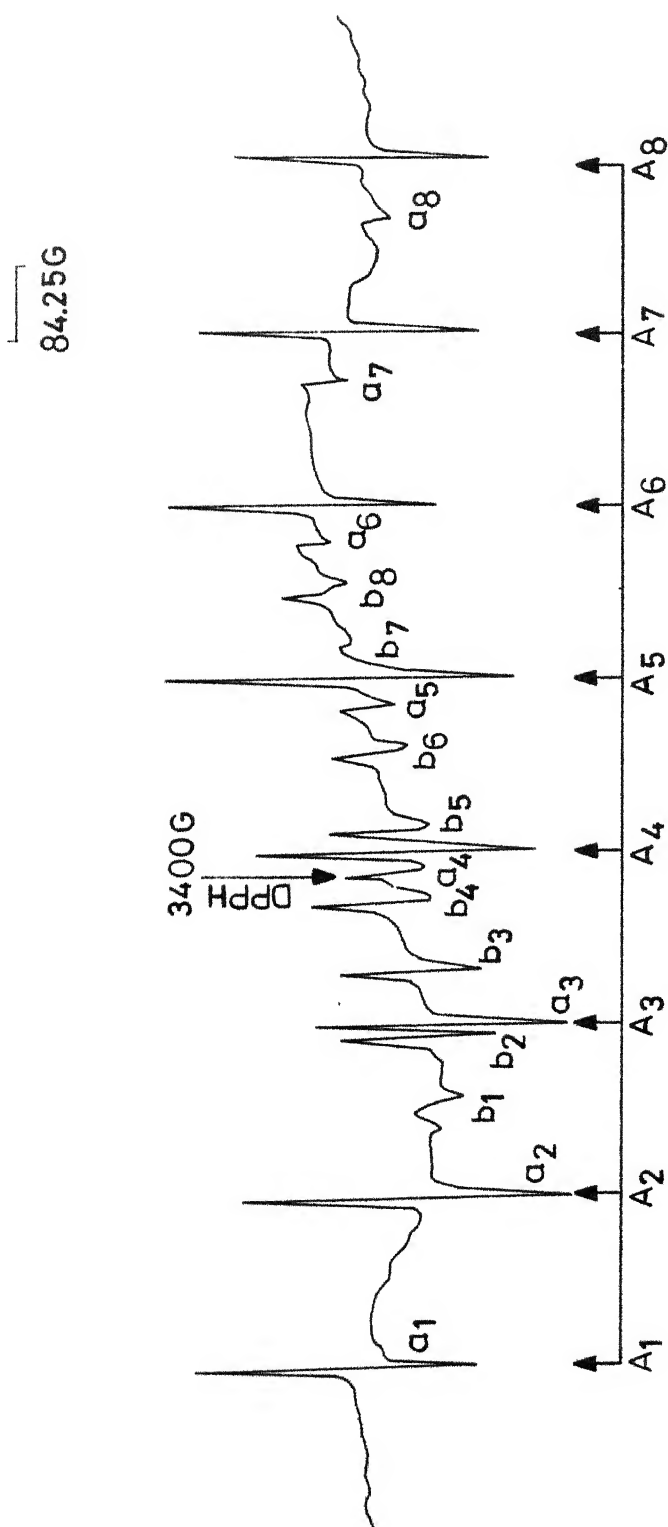


FIG. 4.2 THE ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE SPECTRUM OF  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ION IN KDP SINGLE CRYSTALS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE THE MAGNETIC FIELD BEING PARALLEL TO THE  $c$ -AXIS OF THE LATTICE. THE OCTET  $A_1$  .....  $A_3$  BELONGS TO SPECTRUM I AND THE OCTETS  $a_1$  .....  $a_3$ , AND  $b_1$  .....  $b_3$  BELONGS TO SPECTRUM II.

different kinds of alums. The intensities of the octet  $b_1 \dots b_8$  are more than those of  $a_1, \dots, a_3$ , the intensity ratio being nearly 2:1. The lines  $a_1 \dots a_8$  correspond to the  $VO^{2+}$  ions oriented along the c-axis of crystal while  $b_1 \dots b_8$  correspond to those perpendicular to the c-axis. In other words,  $a_1 \dots a_8$  may be called the parallel set (spectrum) (direction of  $VO^{2+}$  centres being parallel to H) while  $b_1 \dots b_8$  may be called the perpendicular set (spectrum). As the number of  $VO^{2+}$  centres will be twice for the perpendicular spectrum (X and Y direction) than those of parallel spectrum (Z-direction), the intensity of the perpendicular set is expected to be twice than that of the parallel spectrum. The X, Y and Z directions are the principal axes of the complex  $[VO(H_2O)_5]^{2+}$  complex, the Z-direction approximately coinciding with the c-axis of the crystal. Spectrum II has been analysed using the appropriate spin-Hamiltonian as that used by Manogian et al<sup>1</sup> and Rao et al<sup>2,9</sup> [Eqs. (4.1) and (4.2)]. The constants obtained are given in Table 4.2 where the corresponding data of the complex in different alums are also listed for comparison.

Further, evidence for perpendicular and parallel sets for spectrum II comes from the splitting of perpendicular set into two when the direction of the



Table 4.2. Spin-Hamiltonian parameters for  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  doped in alum lattices and in the lattice of KDP. Hyperfine parameters are in units of  $10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

Lattices	$g_{\parallel}$	$g_{\perp}$	A	B	References
RbAl alum	1.932	1.975	132.2	66.6	1
CsAl alum	1.932	1.979	133.4	65.7	1
KAl alum	1.936	1.977	177	63	2
$\text{NH}_4\text{Al}$ alum	1.940	1.978	176	66	2
MAA alum	1.939	1.976	174	67	9
KDP (Spectrum I)	1.922	1.963	173.5	69.8	Present work
KDP (Spectrum II)	1.928	1.966	173.5	72	Present work

magnetic field is rotated by  $10^\circ$  from the c-axis in the a c (b c) plane. A comparison of Fig. 4.3(a) and 4.3(b) taken with H parallel to c ( $\theta = 0$ ) and  $\theta = 10^\circ$  respectively, shows this splitting. The split components are marked  $b_1'$ ,  $b_1''$ ;  $b_2'$ ,  $b_2''$  etc., in Fig. 4.3 (b).  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$  etc., represent perpendicular set (spectrum) in Fig. 4.3(a). The parallel set (Fig. 4.3a) shows some structure and this becomes more clear when the direction of magnetic field becomes parallel to the a (b) axis (See Fig. 4.4). This indicates that the principal axes of the magnetic centres of this complex are not exactly parallel to the crystal axes, but are spread over a small angle about the crystal axes. However a more detailed study of spectrum II at different angles could not be taken up due to its overlap with the predominantly strong spectrum I for other orientation.

As mentioned earlier, spectrum I shows strong set of eight lines  $A_1 \dots A_8$  (Fig. 4.2) when H is parallel to the c-axis of the crystal. The angular variation of the spectrum and that of the hyperfine splitting in the a c (or b c) plane are shown in Figs. 4.5 and 4.6 respectively. When the rotation of the magnetic field is carried out in the a c (b c) plane (see Fig. 4.5) each hyperfine line of this set splits into a maximum of four components (Fig. 4.3(b)).

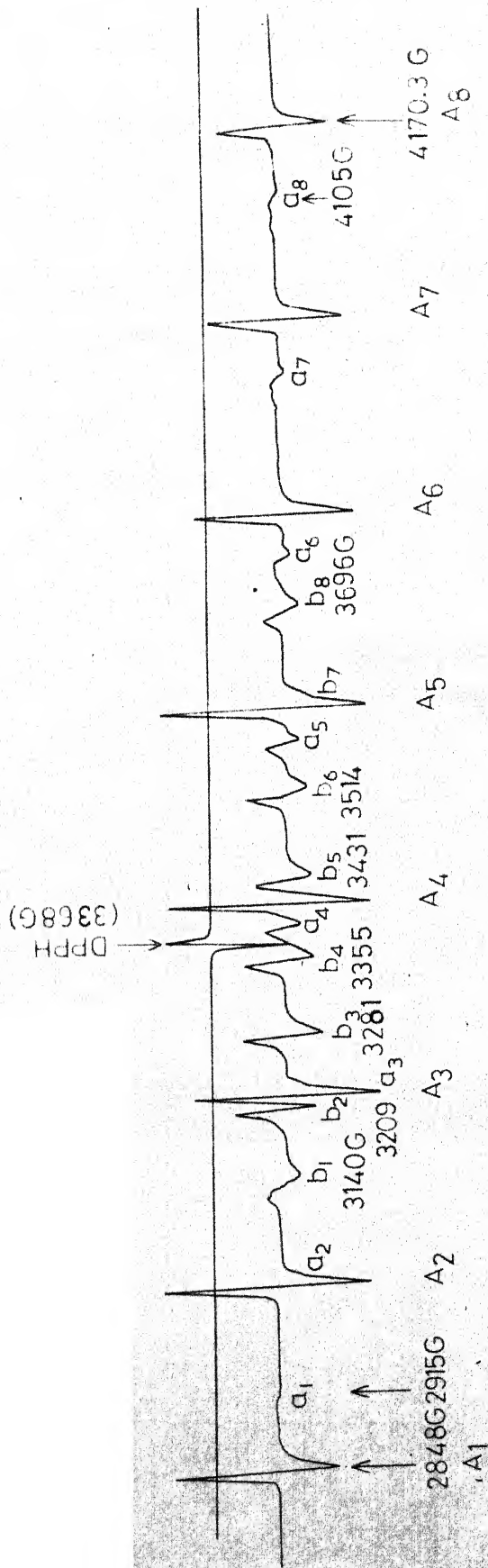


FIG. 4.3 (a) EPR SPECTRUM OF  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ION IN KDP LATTICE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE WHEN THE MAGNETIC FIELD IS PARALLEL TO THE c-AXIS. THE PARALLEL SET  $a_1 \dots a_8$  SHOWS SOME STRUCTURE INDICATING THE SPREAD OF MAGNETIC AXES OVER SOME ANGLE AROUND c-AXIS.  $A_1 \dots A_8$  ARE HYPERFINE LINES OF SPECTRUM I.  $a_1 \dots a_8$  AND  $b_1 \dots b_8$  ARE PARALLEL AND PERPENDICULAR SETS OF HYPERFINE LINES OF SPECTRUM II.

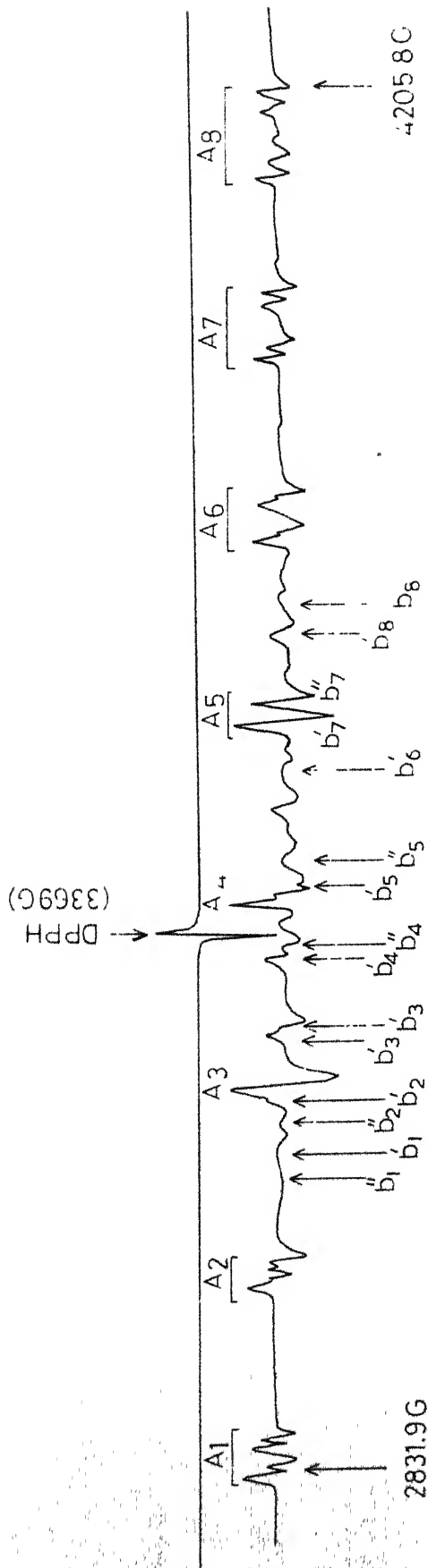


FIG. 4.3 (b) EPR SPECTRUM OF  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ION IN KDP LATTICE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE AND THE  $10^\circ$  FIELD MAKES AN ANGLE  $10^\circ$  WITH RESPECT TO THE  $z$ -AXIS IN THE  $ac$  (bc) PLANE. HYPERFINE LINES OF SPECTRUM I SPLITS INTO A MAXIMUM OF FOUR COMPONENTS. THE HYPERFINE LINE OF COMPLEX  $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$  [FIG. 4.3(a)] SPLITS INTO TWO AND FOUR  $b_1', b_1'', b_2', b_2'', b_3', b_3'', b_4', b_4'', b_5', b_5'', b_6', b_6'', b_7', b_7'', b_8', b_8''$  ETC.  $A_1, \dots, A_8$  REPRESENT LINES OF SPECTRUM I AND  $b_1', b_1'', b_2', b_2'', b_3', b_3'', b_4', b_4'', b_5', b_5'', b_6', b_6'', b_7', b_7'', b_8', b_8''$  REPRESENT LINES OF SPECTRUM II.

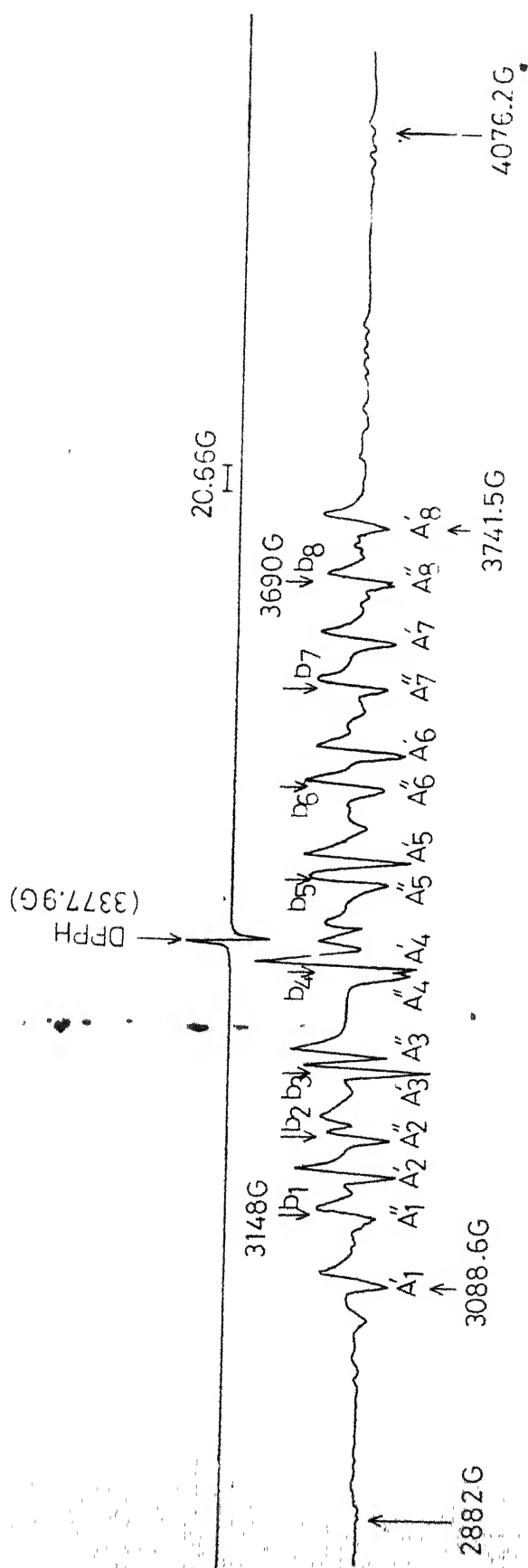


FIG. 4.4 EPR SPECTRUM OF  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ION IN KDP LATTICE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE WHEN THE MAGNETIC FIELD IS PARALLEL TO  $a(b)$  AXIS. THE LINES MARKED  $A_1'$ ,  $A_2'$ , ...,  $A_8'$ , ALL  $A_1''$ ,  $A_2''$ , ...,  $A_8''$  BELONG TO TWO SETS OF SITES WHICH BECAME THE UNIVALENT ALK 3  $a(b)$  AXIS, BUT BECAME EQUIVALENT ALONG  $c$ -AXIS AND PRODUCE SPECTRUM I OF FIG. 4.2 [4.3(a)]. THE LINES MARKED  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$ , ...,  $b_3$  CONSTITUTE PERF. (FIG. 4.2) SET OF  $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$  COMPLEX. PARALLEL SETS OF THE LATTER COMPLEX HAVE SEVERAL COMPONENTS.

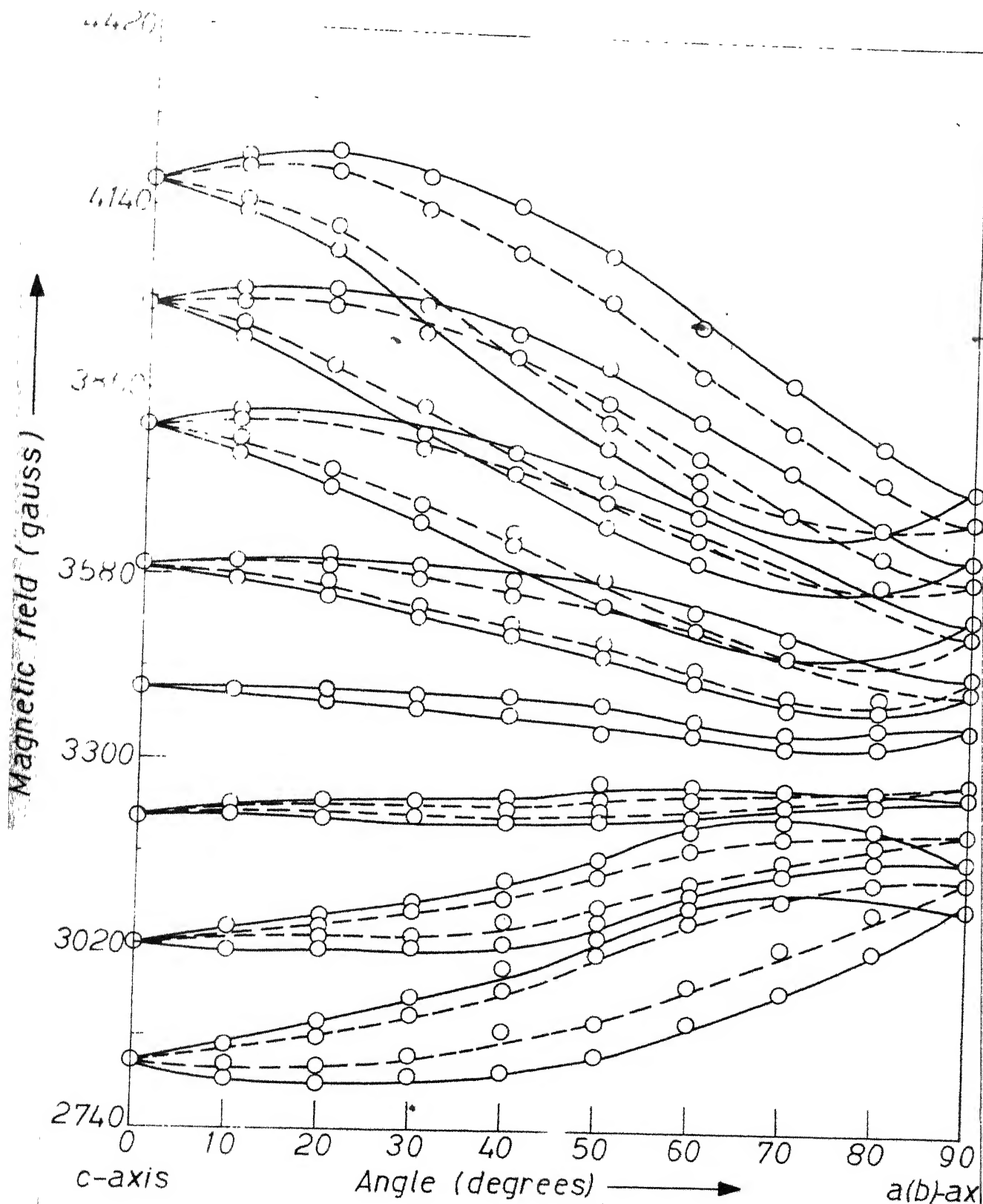


FIG. 4.5 ANGULAR VARIATION OF THE LINE POSITION OF  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ION FOR SPECTRUM I, THE MAGNETIC FIELD BEING VARIED IN THE ac (bc) PLANE.

While it splits into two components only when the field is parallel to the a (b) axis. In an arbitrary direction each component further splits into two making a total of eight. The spectrum shows a maximum spread when H makes an angle of about  $20^\circ$  with the c-axis of crystal in the a b (b c) plane (see Figs. 4.5, 4.6 and 4.10). These observations suggest that the orientation of vanadyl complex formed is such that it has four pairs of symmetry-related sites with their Z-axes lying along the surface of a cone making an angle of about  $20^\circ$  with the crystallographic c-axis. Member of each pair are equivalent for orientation of the magnetic field in the ac (or bc) planes. Further two of the four pairs become one equivalent set while the other two form another equivalent set when the magnetic field is along the a (or b) axis. All the four pairs become equivalent when the magnetic field is parallel to the c axis.

The observation suggests further that the Z-axis is in the ac (or bc) plane making an angle of about  $20^\circ$  with the c-axis. This behaviour can be explained if one assumes that  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  enters the lattice at an interstitial site where the position of four oxygens is congenial for the formation of a nearly square pyramidal vanadyl complex in which vanadyl is known to exist such as in vanadyl acetyl acetate.<sup>11</sup> The structure of vanadyl acetyl acetate is shown in Fig. 4.7, for illustration. The projection





of  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  in the ab plane (Fig. 4.3) shows four oxygens, numbered 1,2,3,4 lying nearly in a plane with its normal making an angle of about  $40^\circ$  with the c-axis. However, when  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ion enters the lattice forming a complex with these oxygens, the complex seems to get stabilized such that V = O bond makes an angle of  $20^\circ$  with the c-axis as observed. The positions of the four oxygen atoms more likely form a rectangle making the complex a non axial one. Thus the rhombic components may probably be responsible for the observed doubling of the lines, making them eight, when the crystal is rotated such that the magnetic field is out of the ab plane. A model of the orientation of Z-axis is shown in Fig. 4.9. The spectrum has been analysed using the expressions given in equation (4.2) appropriate to axial symmetry and the parameters obtained are given below:

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\parallel} &= 1.922 \pm .001 \\ g_{\perp} &= 1.963 \pm .001 \\ A &= (178.5 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-4} \text{cm}^{-1} \\ B &= (69.3 \pm 3) \times 10^{-4} \text{cm}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

The angular dependence of hyperfine constants is shown in Fig. 4.10. The points are experimental points and the curve is a theoretical one, calculated using the

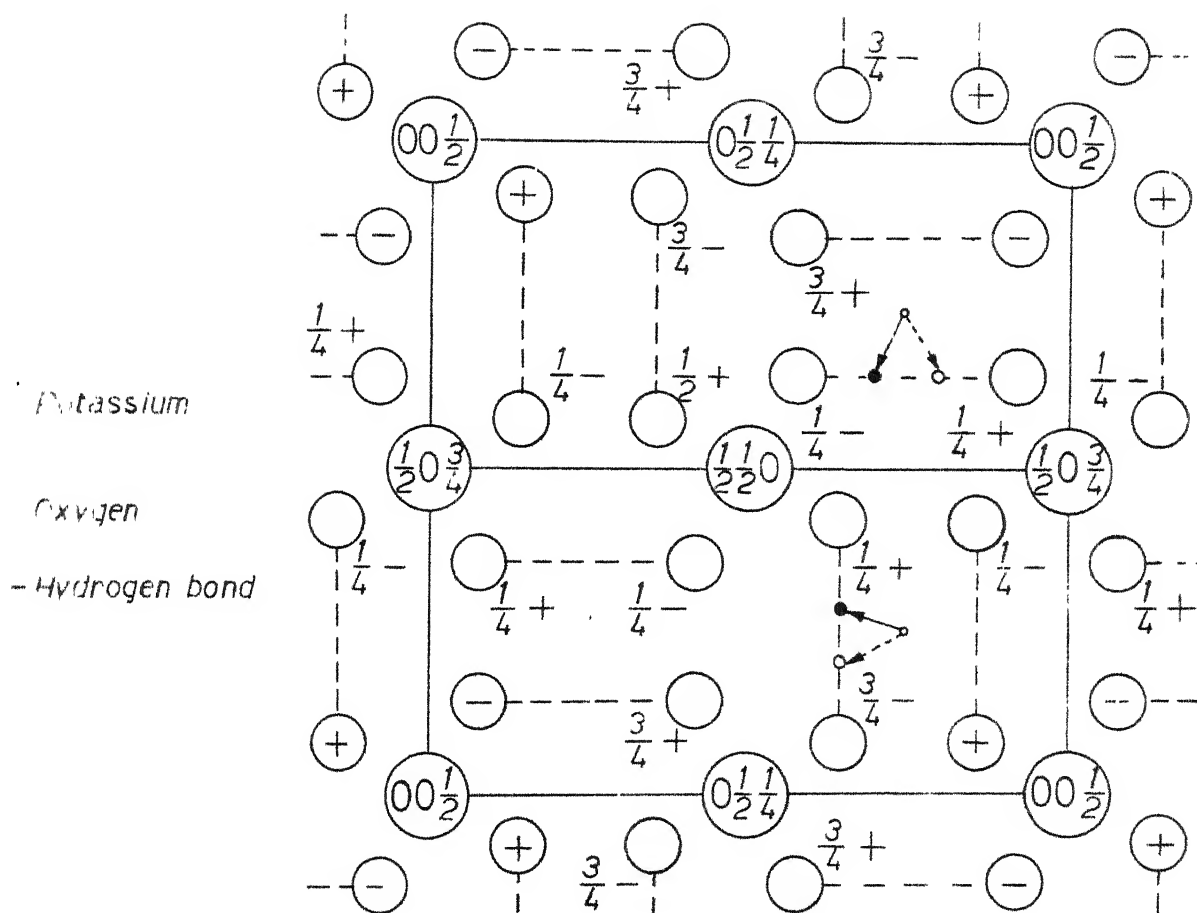


FIG. 4.2. SCHEMATIC PROJECTION OF TETRAETHYL ORTHOPHOSPHATE ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}_4\text{P}$ ) ON (001). THE POSITIONS OF PHOSPHORUS ARE AT DISTANCES  $1/2$  ABOVE AND BELOW THE POTASSIUM (NOT SHOWN). THE ARROWS SHOW THE PROJECTIONS OF THE DIRECTIONS ALONG WHICH THE  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  IONS MIGHT BE ALIGNED.

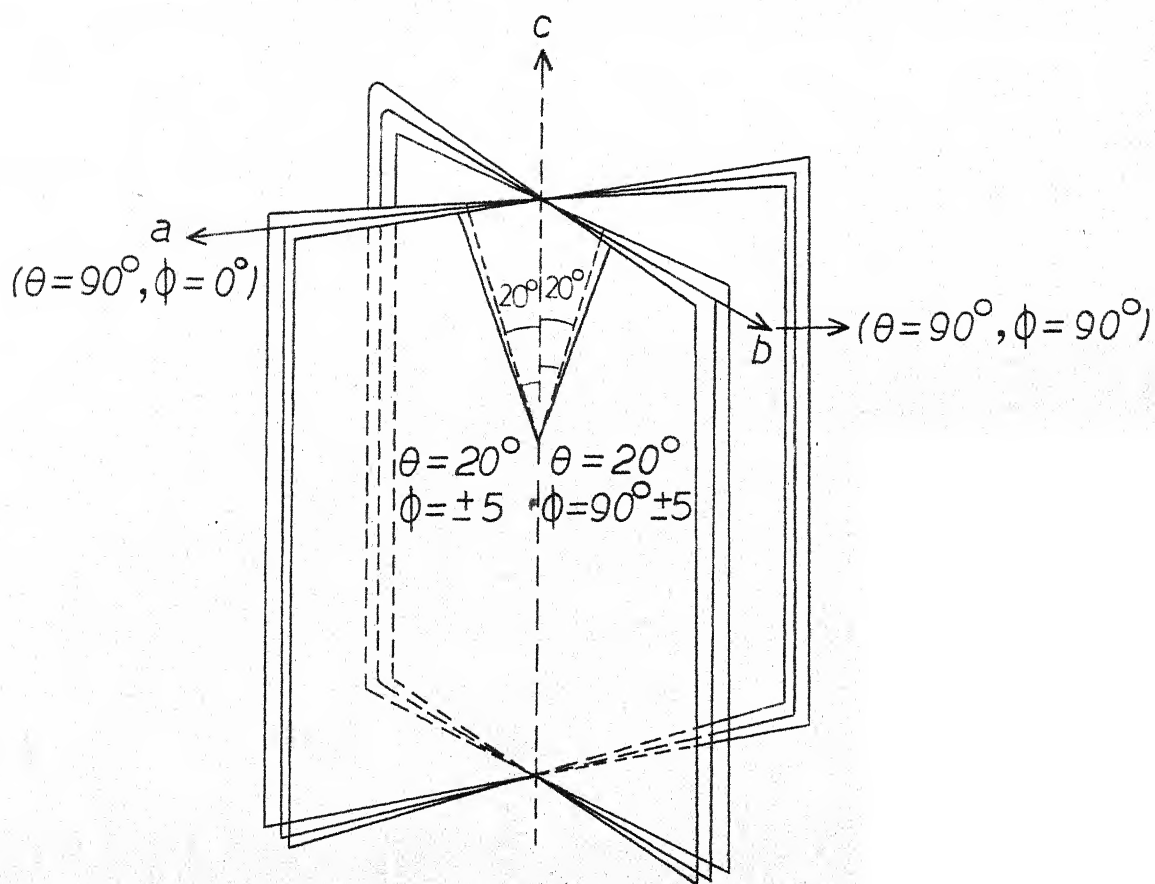


FIG. 4.9 SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF TWO PAIRS OF Z-AXIS  
 OF  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ION PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR LOUCHANT SITE.  
 FOR THE CLARITY OTHER TWO PAIRS ARE NOT SHOWN.

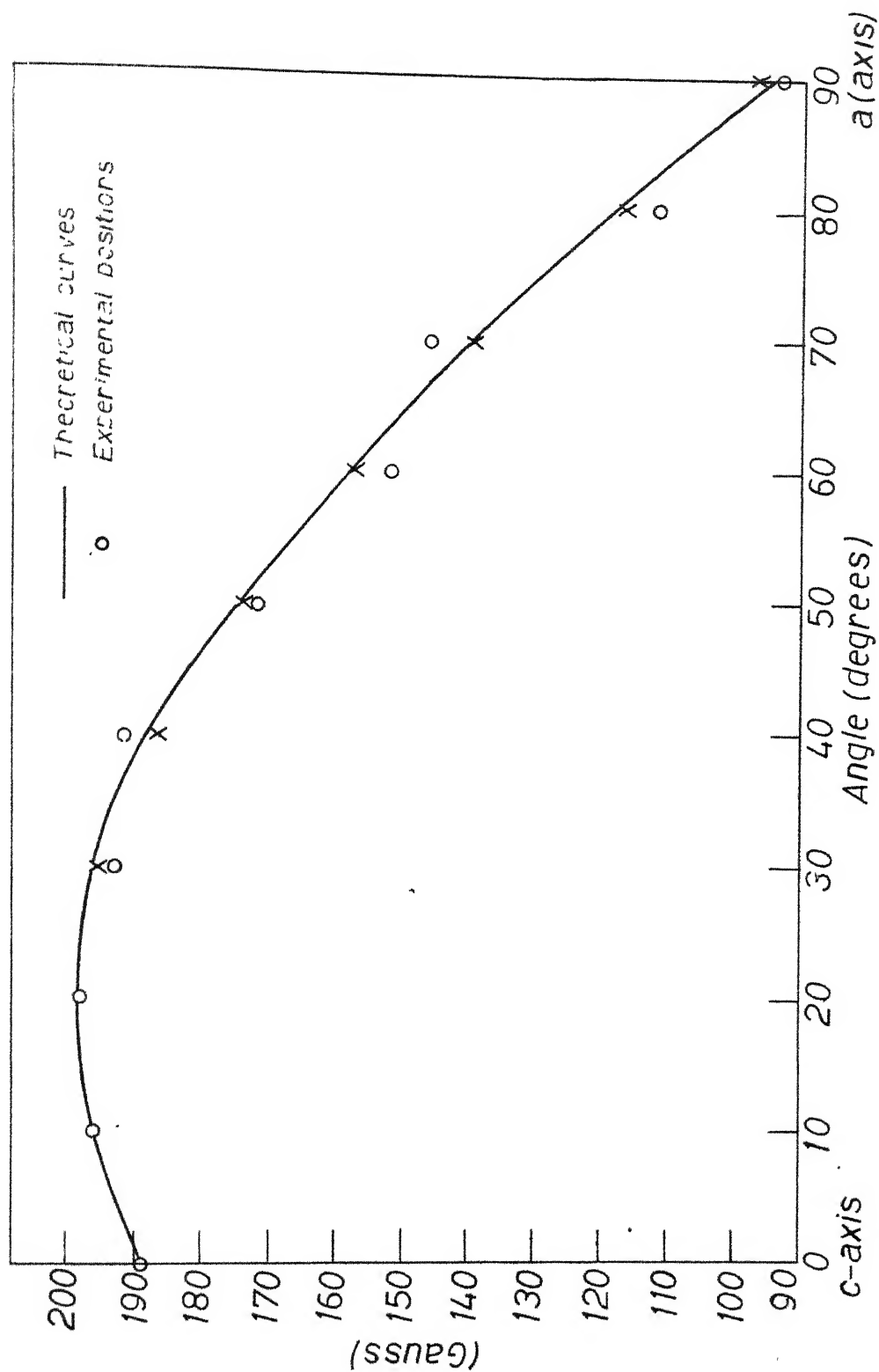


FIG. 4.10 EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL FIELD OF A B-2000 TYPE 1110

$\theta$  (32.3.3.3.1) IN THE AC PLANE. IN THE  $\theta$  PLANE

WITH 3.3P.1.1 TO THE c AXIS A.D.E. =  $(1/2) \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta +$

$3/2 A_L^2 \sin^2 \theta$ .

constants given above and the expression (4.2). It may be mentioned that  $B$  and  $g_{\perp}$  values are somewhat approximate in view of the observed non axial nature of complex.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that in most of the investigations of  $VO^{2+}$  in variety of lattices reported in literature show that  $VO^{2+}$  does not enter the lattice as a point defect but it forms a complex, the formation of which is helped and stabilized by the structure of the host lattice. It is well known that vanadyl ion exists as  $[VO(H_2O)_5]^{2+}$  complex in water solutions and in a number of hydrated salts such as vanadyl sulphate. It is probably the most well understood complex involving the vanadyl ion. However, it is interesting to note the formation of this complex in KDP single crystal. Ordered intercrystallization of two different types of structures is well known and it has recently been reported by Sastry<sup>10</sup> in the EPR study of Pd doped  $NH_4Cl$  single crystal. Thus, during the process of crystallization of KDP from water solution containing the  $VO^{2+}$  impurity,  $[VO(H_2O)_5]^{2+}$  complex gets probably, trapped in the crystal and there is an ordered intercrystallization of this complex, though small in concentration, in KDP crystal.

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## CHAPTER 5

### ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE OF $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ION IN $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ SINGLE CRYSTAL

#### ABSTRACT

The electron paramagnetic resonance of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in  $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  single crystals has been studied at room temperature.  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  impurity ion seems to have replaced  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ion in the crystal lattice. Four directionally different, otherwise, similar magnetic centers are found. The site symmetry at  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  has been found to be trigonal with the principal Z axis along crystallographic  $\langle 111 \rangle$  axis. Using the spin Hamiltonian appropriate to trigonal symmetr relevant parameters have been calculated.

## INTRODUCTION

The study of electron paramagnetic resonance of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ions with varied concentrations in single crystals of alums has drawn considerable attention. The work of Bagguley and Griffiths<sup>1</sup> on K, Rb, Cs,  $\text{NH}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_3\text{CH}_3$  chromic sulphate alums at room temperature reveals the existence of four magnetically non-equivalent, otherwise similar, complexes subjected to a small trigonally distorted octahedral crystal field. Further, the work of Danilov and Manoogian<sup>2</sup> and that of Manoogian and Danilov<sup>3</sup> in similar host lattices but containing  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  in diluted amount demonstrates similar magnetic centers in trigonally distorted crystal field of octahedral symmetry. The present chapter describes the result of an EPR study of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in  $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  single crystals. It may be mentioned that the work of Manoogian and Leclerc<sup>4</sup> on the temperature variation of the D parameter in  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  doped alums appeared after the present work was completed. However, they have reported only the D value for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  in  $\text{TlAl}$  sulphate alum at  $77^\circ\text{K}$ ,  $195^\circ\text{K}$  and  $297^\circ\text{K}$  and no other details of the EPR work on this system are given.

## THE STRUCTURE OF ALUMS

The alums are a series of double salts for which the general formula may be expressed as  $\text{M}^{\text{I}}\text{M}^{\text{II}}(\text{RO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , in which  $\text{M}^{\text{I}}$  and  $\text{M}^{\text{II}}$  are monovalent and trivalent cations respectively and R stands for sulphur,



selenium or tellurium.<sup>5</sup> The structure and classification of alums have been studied by Lipson and Beevers<sup>6</sup> and Lipson.<sup>7</sup> The crystals belong to a cubic system and possess point group symmetry  $T_h = (2/m)\bar{3}$  and space group  $T_h^6$  (Pa 3).<sup>8</sup> There are four molecules in the unit cell. The nearest neighbours of monovalent and trivalent cations are six water molecules and they constitute octahedrons. The octahedron about the monovalent cation is somewhat distorted whereas the one about the trivalent cation is nearly regular.

The alums are classified as  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  or  $\gamma$  depending on the differences in the arrangement of atoms, molecules or ions. In the  $\alpha$  type alums, the  $\langle 111 \rangle$  axes of the water octahedron surrounding the trivalent cation coincide with the  $\langle 111 \rangle$  axes of the crystal, but the cubic axes of water octahedron are displaced from the cubic axes of crystal by a rotation of  $9.5^\circ$  about the  $\langle 111 \rangle$  direction of the crystal. There is a small trigonal distortion along the crystallographic  $\langle 111 \rangle$  direction. The angle of rotation in the  $\beta$  type alum is  $0^\circ$  and in the  $\gamma$  type alum it is about  $40^\circ$ .<sup>3</sup> For the  $\gamma$  type alum the sulphate groups are oriented in opposite directions along the crystallographic body diagonal.

Lipson<sup>7</sup> postulated that the size of the monovalent cation determines the type of alums. A medium

size cation is responsible for  $\alpha$  type alum, larger size for  $\beta$  type alum and small size for  $\gamma$  type alum. Though the mass number of Tl is high the ionic radius of  $Tl^+$  is equal<sup>9</sup> to that of  $Rb^+$ . Thus  $TlAl$  alum belongs to  $\alpha$  type alum.<sup>10</sup> The size of the trivalent cation also determines the type of alum.<sup>11-13</sup> The edge of its unit cell is 12.232 Å.<sup>14</sup>

#### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Single crystals of thallium aluminium alum doped with  $Cr^{3+}$  ions were grown at room temperature by slow evaporation of the aqueous solution of thallium sulphate and aluminium sulphate taken in stoichiometric ratio containing small amount of chromic sulphate. The crystals were found to grow with well defined (111) planes in the usual habit of other alums.<sup>15</sup> The crystal taken for the EPR study was transparent and colourless with  $0.7 \times 0.6 \times 0.3$  cm<sup>3</sup> dimension.

The electron paramagnetic resonance spectrum was recorded on a Varian V-4502 X-band spectrometer using a cylindrical cavity, a 12 inch electromagnet and 100 kHz modulation. The frequency of klystron was measured with a Hewlett-Packard frequency meter H-532 B. DPPH, for which  $g = 2.0036$ , was used as field marker.

## THEORY

$\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion has a  $3d^3$  configuration and its ground state is  $^4A$ . This state has a seven-fold orbital degeneracy and a four-fold spin degeneracy. In the presence of a crystalline field of octahedral symmetry the orbital degeneracy is partially lifted and the resulting orbital states are a singlet  $\Gamma_2$  state and triply degenerate  $\Gamma_4$  and  $\Gamma_5$  states. The triply degenerate states lie several thousand wave numbers above the  $\Gamma_2$  state. The state of our interest is  $\Gamma_2$  which has four-fold spin degeneracy. This spin degeneracy cannot be lifted by spin orbit coupling alone. In the presence of small axial distortion, the four-fold spin degeneracy is partially removed leaving two Kramers' doublets. Further, the application of magnetic field can remove the degeneracy of the Kramers' doublets. This is shown in Fig. 5.1. All the Zeeman components belonging to  $\Gamma_2$  state are appreciably populated at room temperature as per the Boltzmann's distribution law. The energy gaps at moderate fields are comparable to the microwave frequency used. Therefore, three absorption signals for transition between these states under the selection rule  $\Delta M_S = \pm 1$  can be observed. Here,  $M_S$  takes values  $+3/2$ ,  $+1/2$ ,  $-1/2$ , and  $-3/2$ . The spectrum, so obtained, constitutes fine structure. A further splitting of fine structure can



result if the nucleus has a nonvanishing spin. There are two main isotopes of chromium.  $^{52}\text{Cr}$  ( $I = 0$ ) has natural abundance of 84 percent and  $^{53}\text{Cr}$  ( $I = 3/2$ ) of 9.5 percent. The isotope  $^{53}\text{Cr}$  ( $I = 3/2$ ) is expected to give hyperfine splitting. However, in the present study no hyperfine splitting was observed. This might be due to weak intensity and close splitting of the hyperfine components which seem to have been masked by the fine structure line of the more abundant  $^{52}\text{Cr}$ .

The appropriate spin Hamiltonian for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in a trigonally distorted octahedral field of host lattice, subjected to an external magnetic field is given<sup>2</sup> below:

$$\mathcal{H} = g_{\parallel} \beta H_Z S_Z + g_{\perp} \beta (H_Z S_x + H_y S_y) + D[S_Z^2 - (1/3)S(S+1)]$$

If the magnetic field is oriented parallel to the Z-direction, then

$\mathcal{H} = g_{\parallel} \beta H_Z S_Z + D[S_Z^2 - (1/3)S(S+1)]$ . The eigenstates are  $|+ 3/2\rangle$  and  $|\pm 1/2\rangle$ . The eigenvalues of the above Hamiltonian are

$$= \pm 3/2 g_{\parallel} \beta H + D, \pm 1/2 g_{\parallel} \beta H + D$$

The field positions of various transition under the selection rule  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$ , are given below:

$$\begin{aligned} H_1 &= H_0 - 2D \\ H_2 &= H_0 \\ H_3 &= H_0 + 2D \end{aligned}$$

where D is expressed in gauss and  $H_0$  stands for  $\frac{h\nu}{g\mu_B}$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The EPR spectrum of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in a single crystal of  $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was recorded at room temperature and its angular variation has been studied in the crystallographic (110) and (111) planes and is shown in Figs. 5.2 and 5.3 respectively. The planes of the crystal were identified from the usual growth habits and morphology of alums.<sup>15</sup> The angular variation of line positions is quite similar to those obtained by Dzhilov and Manogian<sup>2</sup> in  $\text{RbGa}$  and  $\text{CsGa}$  alums. It is found that there are four similar but directionally different magnetic complexes for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in  $\text{TlAl}$  alums, each being responsible for three EPR transitions under the selection rule  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$ . Transitions from four complexes are identified with H in (111) plane and are marked I, II, III and IV and are shown in Fig. 5.3. There are, some more lines of weak intensity towards the low field side. These lines seem

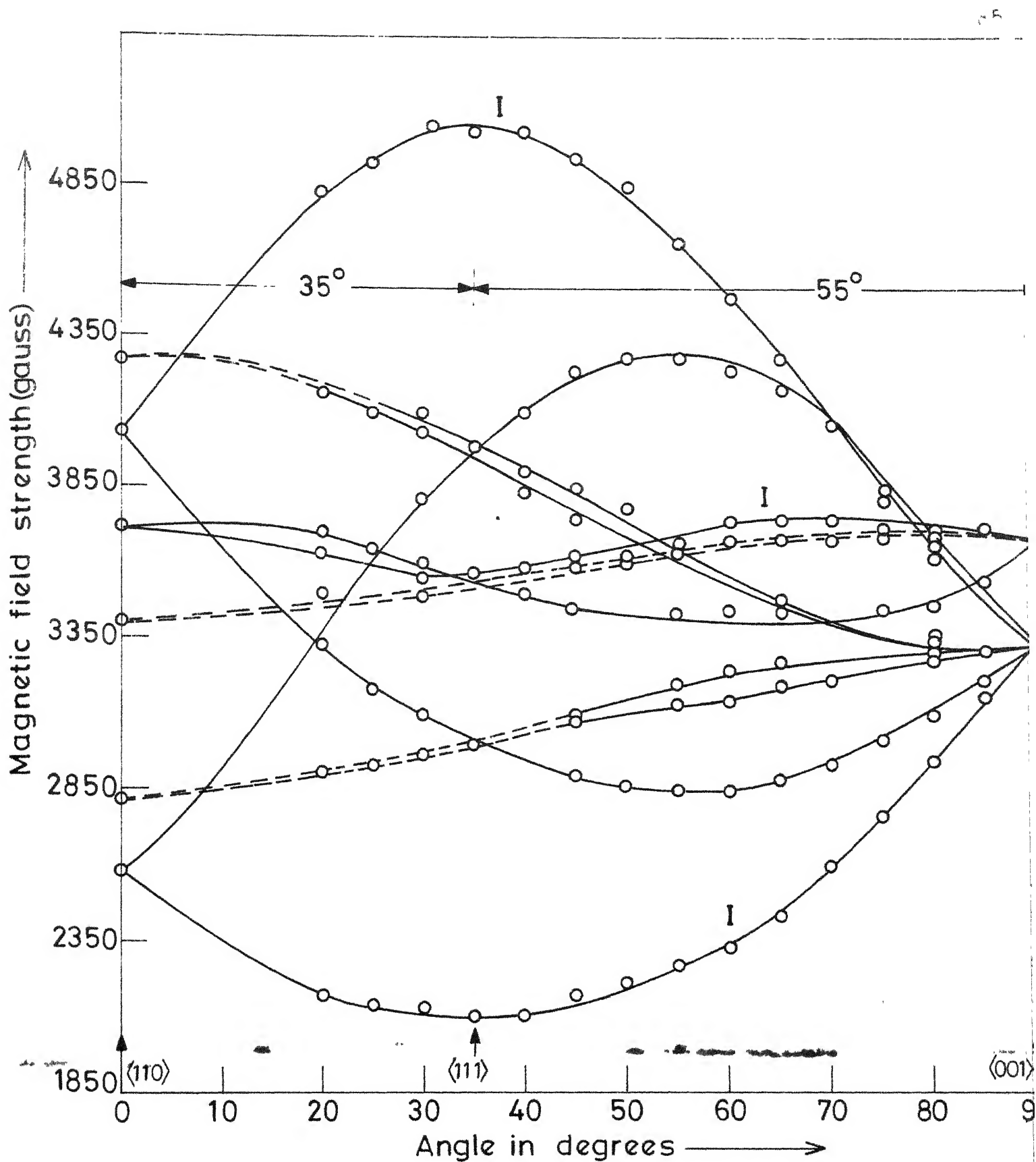


FIG. 5.2 THE ANGULAR VARIATION OF THE EPR LINES OF  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ION WHEN THE CRYSTAL IS ROTATED ABOUT  $\langle 110 \rangle$  DIRECTION AT ROOM TEMPERATURE, (111) AND (110) PLANE OF THE  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ION IN  $\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

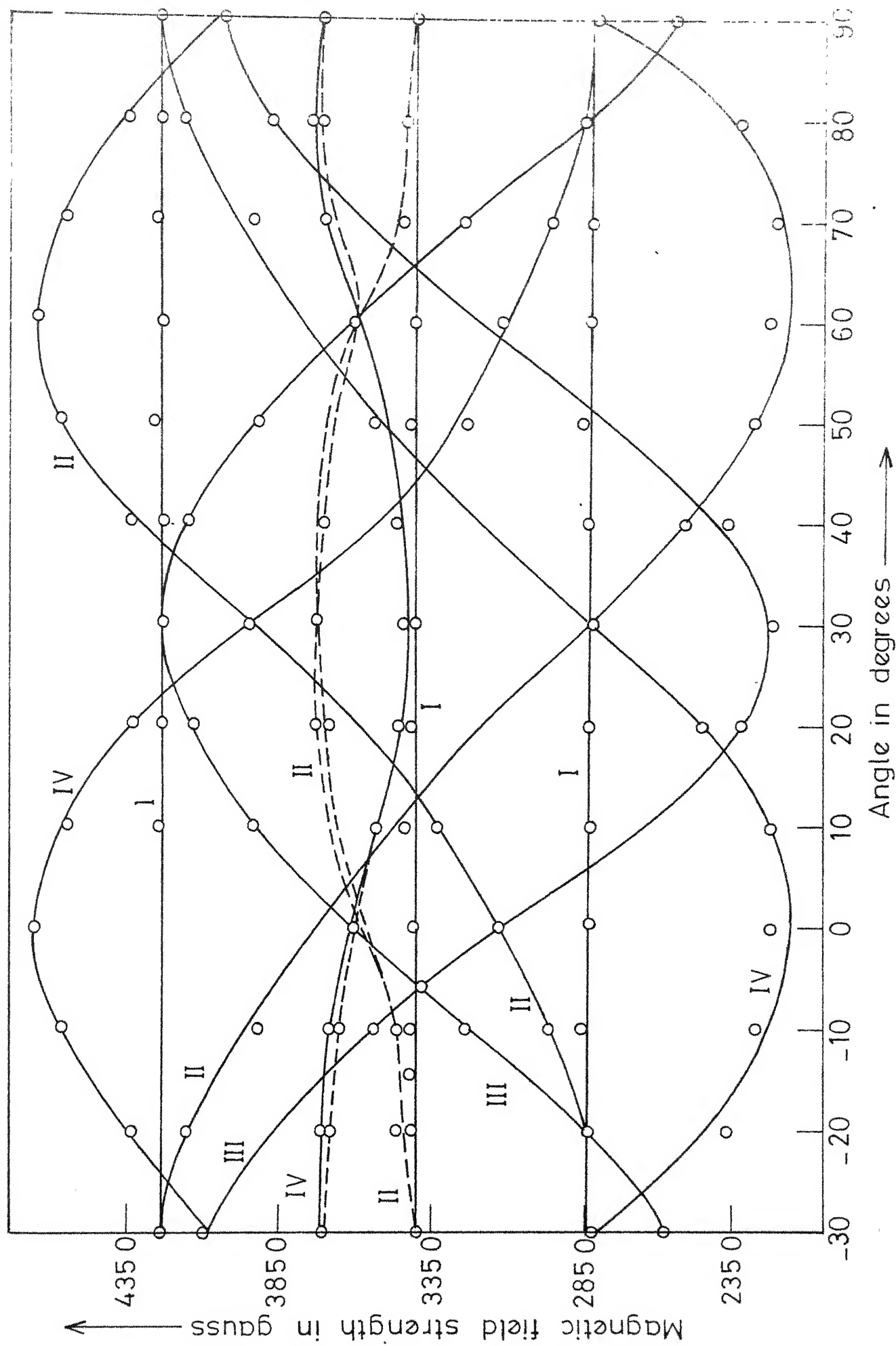


FIG. 5.5. MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH (GAUSS) vs. ANGLE (DEGREES) FOR THE FOUR CURVES (I, II, III, IV) SHOWN IN FIG. 5.4.



to be forbidden ones. When the angular variation of the magnetic field was done in the (110) plane of the crystal lattice, the spectrum had shown a maximum spread with magnetic field along the  $\langle 111 \rangle$  direction. This spectrum is shown in Fig. 5.4. It is in qualitative agreement with that of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in ammonium chromium alum.<sup>16</sup> The spectrum coalesces when the magnetic field is parallel to the  $\langle 100 \rangle$  direction. This is in agreement with the expected  $(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$  type variation, indicating that  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion is at an axially distorted site in the lattice.

The angular variation of the spectrum in the (111) plane of crystal lattice revealed perfect  $60^\circ$  repetition of the DPR spectra as in  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  doped gallium alum.<sup>2</sup> This is in conformity with the existence of  $C_3$  symmetry in the system and it appears that the structure of the TLAl alum is also cubic with some local distortion about the  $\langle 111 \rangle$  direction, retaining the local symmetry a trigonal one. From the angular variation in the (111) plane (see Fig. 5.3) it is clear that there is a set of three lines which is angular independent. The separation between the extreme lines of this set is nearly half the separation between the extreme lines (parallel spectra) obtained when H is parallel to  $\langle 111 \rangle$  direction. This means that this angular independent set is the perpendicular (X/Y) spectrum. From the parallel and the

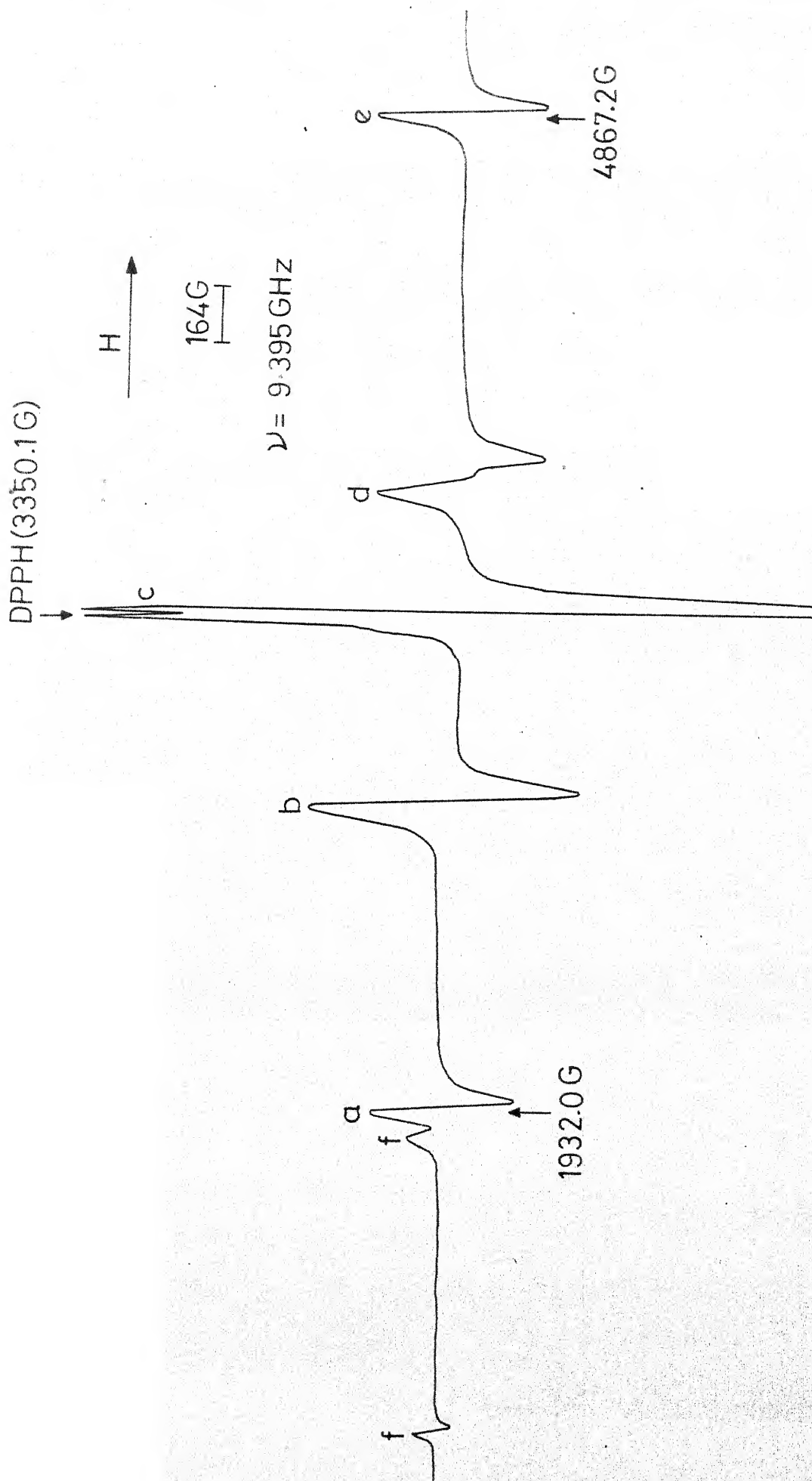


FIG. 5.4 EPR SPECTRUM OF  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ION IN  $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  AT ROOM TEMPERATURES WITH THE STATIC FIELD  $H$  IS PARALLEL  $\langle 111 \rangle$  DIRECTION. THE LINES b AND d ARE TRIPLET DEGENERATE, c QUADRUPLY DEGENERATE WHEREAS a and e ARE SINGLE LINES. THE LINES a, c AND e CORRESPOND TO Z-AXIS SPECTRUM OF ONE OF THE CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC. THE LINES b AND d ARE TO BE FORBIDDEN.

perpendicular spectra the  $g_{\parallel}$ ,  $g_{\perp}$  and D values have been calculated. The values are given below

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\parallel} &= 1.976 \pm .004, \quad g_{\perp} = 1.972 \pm 0.004 \\ D &= (679 \pm 5) \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

The experimental and theoretical angular variation of the fine structure of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion at one of its sites in  $\text{TlAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is shown in Fig. 5.5. The theoretical expressions<sup>13</sup> for the fine structure line positions are used after appropriate modification.

The temperature variation of D parameter of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ions in a series of hydrated salts reported by Manoogian et al<sup>4</sup> shows that in the case of  $\text{TlAl}$  alum its value is  $683 \pm 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at room temperature, which is close to  $(679 \pm 5) \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , from the present experiment.

The origin of trigonal distortion is probably due to the effect of ligand around the magnetic ion.<sup>22</sup> In  $\alpha$  type alums, keeping trivalent cation to be the same, we can correlate to some extent as shown in Table 5.1 the ionic radii of monovalent cations with the magnitude of the D parameter of the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion. This table shows that the value of the D parameter increases with the increase of ionic radius of the monovalent

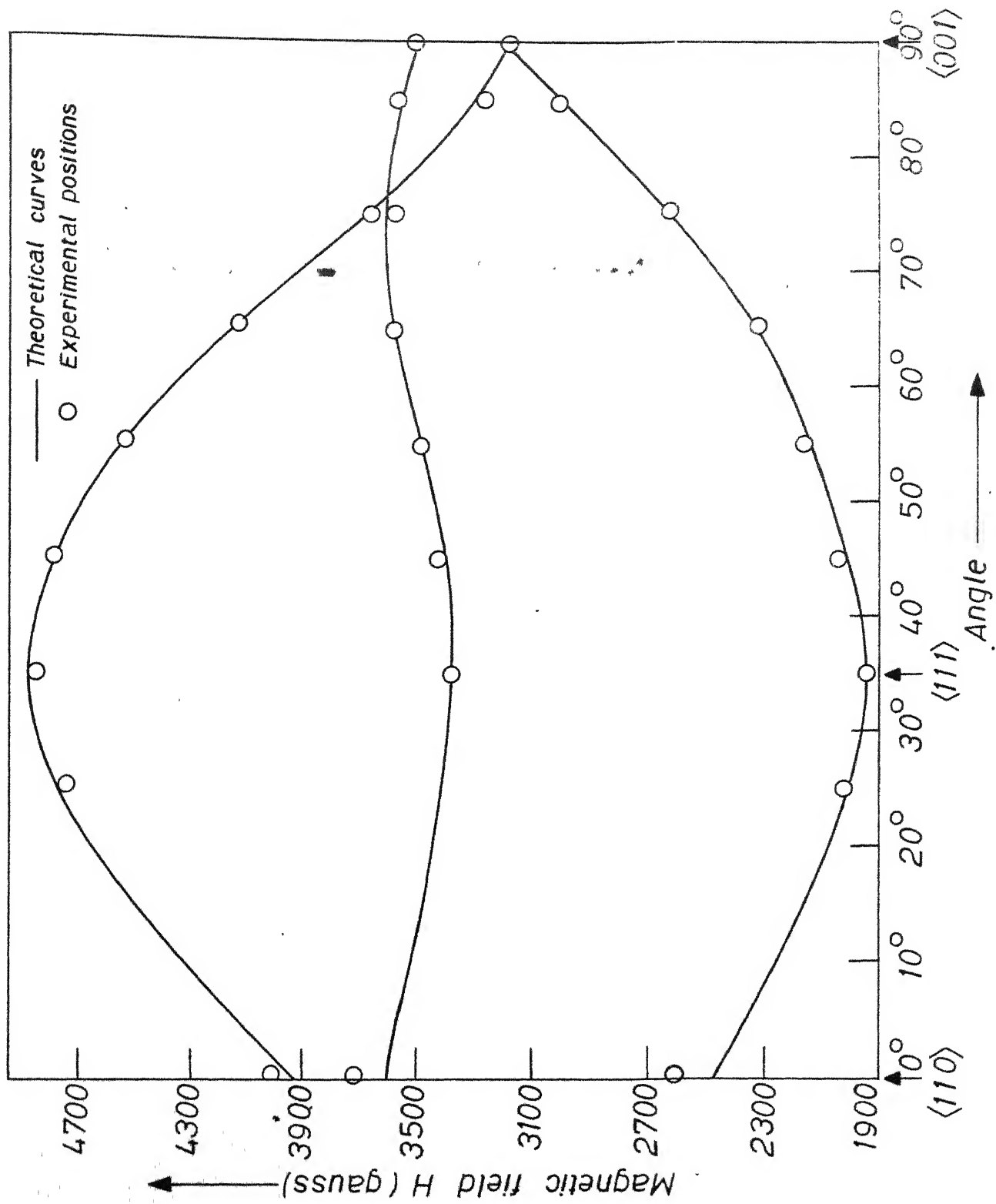


FIG. 5.5 A GRAPH PREDICTED BY THE THEORY OF THE ANGLE DEPENDENCE OF THE MAGNETIC FIELD FOR  $Y_3Fe_5O_{12}$ .

Table 5.1 A comparison of ionic radii and D parameters for some alums.

Alums	Ionic radius of hexavalent cation <sup>2</sup> Å	D ( $10^{-4}$ cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Edge of unit cell <sup>5</sup> Å
KAl alum	1.33	$450^1$	12.14
NH <sub>4</sub> Al alum	1.43	$500^1$	12.18
NH <sub>4</sub> Al alum		$435^4$	
RbAl alum	1.47	$531 \pm 5^4$	
LiAl alum	1.47	$635 \pm 5^4$	12.21
LiAl alum	1.47	$579 \pm 5$	12.21

(Present work)

cation. It thus looks plausible as pointed out by Danilov and Manoogian<sup>2</sup> from other considerations that the size determines the distortion of the six water molecules coordinated to it and also the distribution of the sulphate groups. The displacements of these water molecules and sulphate groups might influence the formation of trigonal distortion at the trivalent site of the magnetic ion.

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